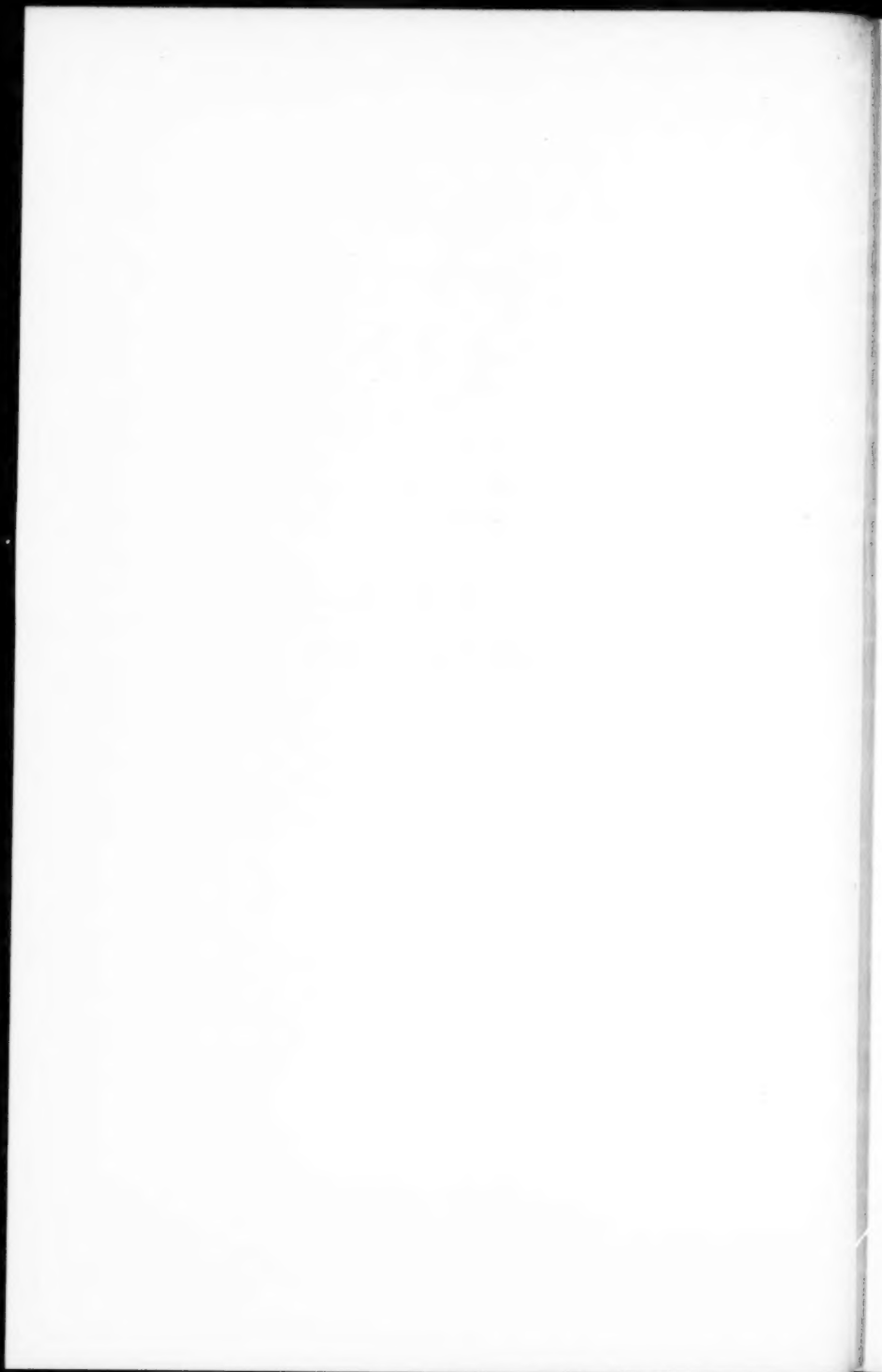
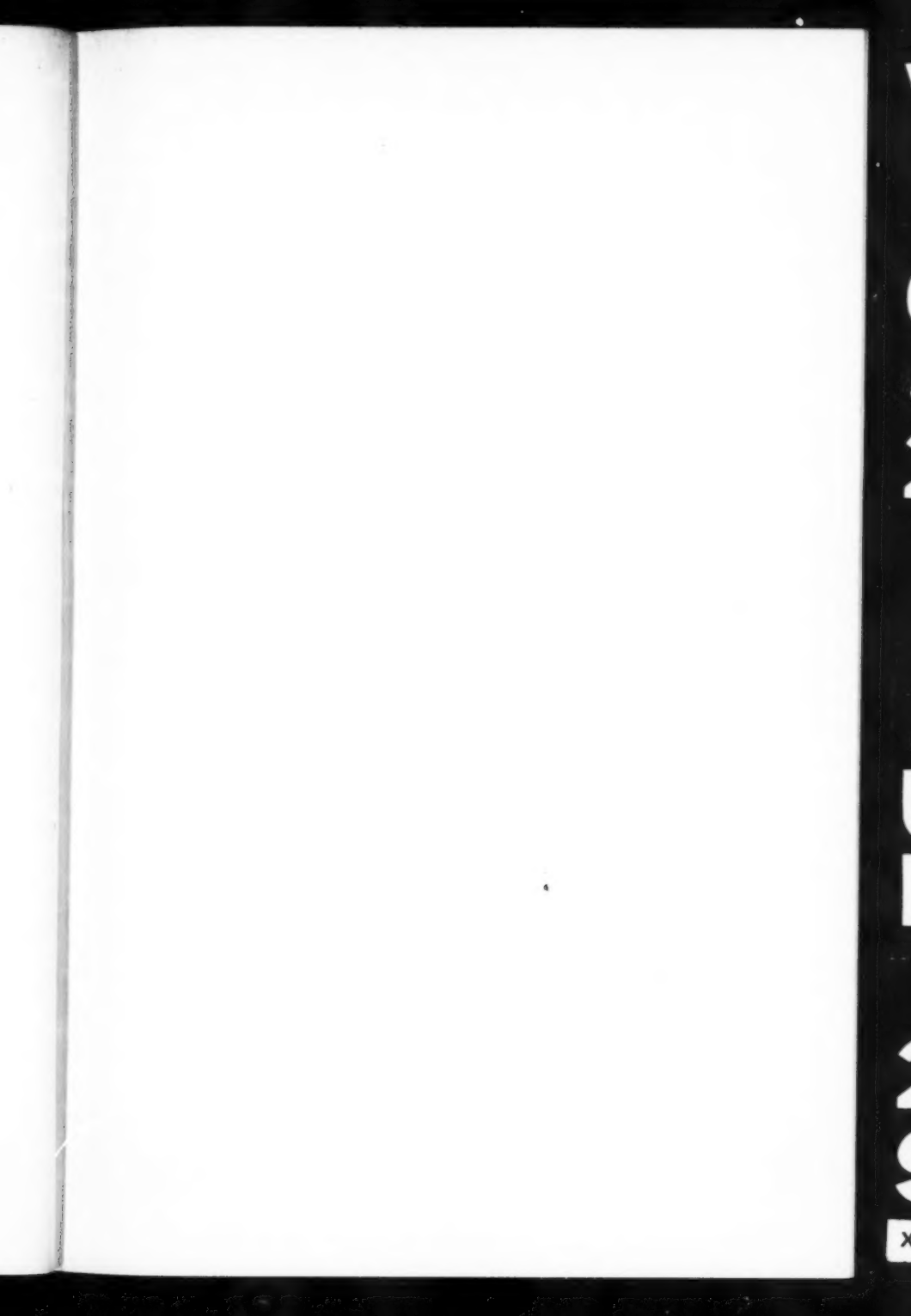


**MINNESOTA HISTORY**  
**A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE**

**VOL. 10, No. 2**  
**WHOLE No. 54**  
**JUNE, 1929**







Francis Pierzga  
Rom. cath Missionary



## FATHER FRANCIS PIERZ, MISSIONARY

The Reverend Francis Pierz, or Pirec, the Slovenian missionary to the Chippewa Indians, was born in the village of Godic in Carniola, Austria, on November 21, 1785. He received his early education in the elementary school of his native town and in the high school in Kamnik. After attending school at the last-named place for three years, he entered the gymnasium in Laibach, the capital of Carniola, devoting a large part of his time to the study of languages. It was during the years he spent here that he decided to become a priest, and in 1810, soon after his graduation from the gymnasium, he was admitted to the ecclesiastical seminary of Laibach. These years were exciting ones for the people of Carniola, for the country was invaded and occupied by Napoleon's forces. Though French occupation was of short duration, it aroused in Father Pierz the desire to study French, and he was thus unconsciously induced to acquire a tool for his future missionary work.

On March 13, 1813, Father Pierz was ordained by Bishop Kovacic of Laibach and assigned to parish work at Kranjska Gora. Seven years later he was made pastor of Pec, a village where the poor farmers, ignorant of the best methods of agriculture, were living in extreme poverty. Here he not only tended to the spiritual needs of his flock but also tried to help its members to better their temporal condition. Horticulture and agriculture had long been of interest to him, and now he was to turn his knowledge of these subjects to practical use. He published a work on gardening; kept a well-cultivated garden of vegetables, fruits, and flowers; and encouraged the people by his example to follow better methods in field work.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A sketch of Pierz appears in P. Chrysostomus Verwyst, *Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga*, 379-393 (Milwaukee, 1900); and an article entitled "The Reverend Francis Pirec, Indian Missionary," by John Seliskar, is published in *Acta et Dicta*, 3: 66-90 (July, 1911).

From Pec he went to Podbrizje, where he worked for five years. In 1830 the Reverend Frederic Baraga, the missionary, visited him at this place and tried to induce him to leave his work in Europe, where there was no dearth of priests, and to return with him to America to labor among the Indians.<sup>2</sup> Father Pierz, however, did not respond favorably to the invitation of the missionary, for his heart was with his poor people at Podbrizje. He was, moreover, forty-five years of age and felt that it was too late to learn the difficult Indian language. Baraga, however, saw that Father Pierz had the qualities needed by a missionary — the ability to master languages, a knowledge of agriculture, love of open-air life, a strong constitution, patience with the slow and untutored, and a zeal for souls. It was this last characteristic of Father Pierz's on which Baraga worked to win him for the missionary field. The letters that the priest received from Baraga after the latter's return to America pictured so vividly the deplorable condition of the pagan Indian, the great work to be accomplished, and the small number of workers in the field that, after hesitating for five years, Father Pierz finally succumbed to his friend's entreaties to devote himself to the American Indian.

After leaving Carniola on June 16, 1835, Father Pierz went to Vienna and obtained funds for his transportation from the Leopoldine Society.<sup>3</sup> From Vienna he traveled to Le Havre,

<sup>2</sup> Seliskar, in *Acta et Dicta*, 3: 69. Baraga was an Illyrian priest who went to Arbre Croche, the present Harbor Springs, Michigan, in 1831. He worked at Grand River, La Pointe, Fond du Lac, and L'Anse. In 1836 his sister, Antonia de Hoeffern, joined him as a teacher at La Pointe. He later became bishop of Sault Ste. Marie.

<sup>3</sup> This organization, which was known in Austria as the *Leopoldinen-Stiftung*, was founded in Vienna in 1829 for the purpose of supporting the struggling American missions. In 1831 it began the publication, under the title of *Berichte der Leopoldinen-Stiftung im Kaiserthume Oesterreich*, of annual reports on the condition of the missions in the various American dioceses. These consist mainly of the letters and official reports of the missionary priests and bishops in America to the officers of the society. A nearly complete set of the *Berichte* is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society; another file is in the library of St. John's University at Collegeville.

France, whence he sailed for America. In a letter to the Leopoldine Society, dated May 1, 1836, he reports:

I arrived on September 18 at Detroit, the chief city of Michigan Territory, where the Very Reverend Bishop gave me a fatherly welcome; and I soon received, along with a very extensive jurisdiction, the welcome order to journey across Lake Superior to Father Baraga, for the purpose of working . . . with my fellow countryman, that tireless missionary, for the conversion of the heathen in the farthest area of this diocese. On account of the lateness of the season and the approach of winter no ship was able to cross the lake, so I returned to Michigan Territory, to La Croix, a sub-mission of Arbre Croche, for the winter, where I have been happily engaged in pastoral duties for five months.<sup>4</sup>

The next spring Pierz expected to start for his original destination, Fond du Lac, but Bishop Frederic Résé, pleased with the success of the new worker, detained him at the post of La Croix. Nevertheless, his stay at this place was short, for in August of the next year the crops were destroyed by frost and the Indians scattered through the woods, thus breaking up the school established in 1836 and leaving Father Pierz without a congregation. He was then transferred to Sault Ste. Marie, where he found awaiting him four hundred Christian French, Indians, and half-breeds who had fallen into disorderly living and had been without the attention of a pastor for many months.<sup>5</sup> His work here was hard and at times his discouragement was so great that if the winter had not set in he would have given up the mission. Compelled to remain, he worked to the best of his ability. In the midst of this work of revival of faith he found time in the spring and fall of 1837 to visit some pagans dwelling to the north of Lake Superior at St. Joseph and at Kitchimitigong. His first journey was a failure, as he himself relates, but the second was successful, probably because it was made on the invitation of the chief, who came

<sup>4</sup> *Berichte*, 10: 43.

<sup>5</sup> Franz Pierz, *Die Indianer in Nord-Amerika; ihre Lebensweise, Sitten, Gebräuche u.s.w.*, 63 (St. Louis, 1855).

to him in person and begged instruction for himself and his people.<sup>6</sup>

In June, 1838, he started out on a missionary trip to Michipicoten and Okwanikisinong to the north, where he had heard that many pagans lived. In a letter to the Leopoldine Society he described Michipicoten as a small village on a beautiful plateau near the mouth of a large river of the same name and on a bay of Lake Superior. The depot stationed here belonged to an English trading company whose agent treated the Indians well and never ruined them with liquor. This made it easier, according to the missionary, to plant the seed of Christianity. After instructing and baptizing twenty-five natives, he traveled to Okwanikisinong, a large pagan settlement forty-five miles farther north. Here a group of seventeen received Christianity and were baptized on the picturesque shore of the lake. Though he gained these converts, Father Pierz did not think it feasible to erect a church here, because the Indians at this place traveled about so much and because he had no funds. When his provisions gave out he was forced to return to Sault Ste. Marie. Such trips were a drain on his small pocketbook, for his sailor and guide cost him "twelve florins daily besides food of bacon, biscuits, and tea." He was not to remain long at the Sault, for he received a letter from Baraga telling him to visit Grand Portage and to open up a mission there during the summer, with a substation at Fort William.<sup>7</sup>

Upon reaching Grand Portage Pierz found the way somewhat paved for him by a half-breed woman, Mrs. Pierre Cotté, who had prepared many for baptism. A small log chapel had been constructed in anticipation of his coming and he found

<sup>6</sup> *Berichte*, 12: 76; Pierz's baptismal register, June 9, 1837, in the possession of the St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul. The Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy of the register. St. Joseph is an island in Georgian Bay near the shore of Ontario.

<sup>7</sup> *Berichte*, 12: 80-85; Pierz's baptismal register, June 17, 21, 1838. Michipicoten was a trading station near the north shore of Lake Superior.

the natives so kindly disposed to Christianity that he stayed with them until March of the next year. During this period he also established missions at Fort William and Pic. Between the time of his arrival at Grand Portage and the end of the year, fifty-four natives were Christianized. One hundred and five is the number registered for the whole year.<sup>8</sup> His school at Grand Portage was attended by fifty-eight Indians and seventeen French pupils, who were taught reading, writing, and agriculture. While on a visit to one of these villages in the fall of 1839 Pierz received orders from Bishop Peter Lefevre to leave this rich field and return to Arbre Croche to attend the Ottawa.<sup>9</sup> This meant for Pierz not only a strenuous and dangerous trip of six hundred miles late in the season, but the sacrifice of the good already accomplished. He excused the bishop for this apparently harsh order by stating that his superior did not realize the hardships of the trip.<sup>10</sup> This move of the bishop's was not made because of any lack of ability on the part of Father Pierz, but rather because the territory in which his missions were located would come under the jurisdiction of the proposed diocese of Milwaukee and Bishop Lefevre was simply withdrawing his men into his own field.

Father Pierz obediently set out in the cold stormy season on a trip of fifty-four days, arriving safely at Arbre Croche on December 3, 1839, after suffering many hardships.<sup>11</sup> This mission was to be his field of work for the next thirteen years. He was never to restrict his work to Arbre Croche mission, however, for it was not large enough to satisfy his energy. At every opportunity he was off to visit his former missions,

<sup>8</sup> Pierz's baptismal register, July 29, 1838, to May 19, 1839; Pierz, *Indianer*, 70-73. For an account of the history and importance of Grand Portage see Solon J. Buck, "The Story of the Grand Portage," *ante*, 5: 14-27.

<sup>9</sup> The Right Reverend Peter Lefevre was consecrated coadjutor of Detroit in 1841 and acted as administrator of the affairs of the diocese of Detroit from that time until 1843.

<sup>10</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 76.

<sup>11</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 77-81.

particularly Grand Portage and Fort William. In the fall of 1842 he was again working at the outlying missions when his bishop sent word that he must leave these places and remain at his main station of Arbre Croche and, obedient to authority, he returned to that mission. From this place he took care of Sault Ste. Marie, Middleton, and La Croix; and in 1844 Cheboygan and Manistee were added to his list of missions.<sup>12</sup>

In a letter of 1843 Father Pierz thus describes his work at Arbre Croche and in the surrounding country:

In summer I spend my time mostly in traveling to distant sub-stations of this mission or in converting the heathen; in winter I teach school. All my spare time is spent in writing in the Indian language, for we have at present only two little books written in this tongue by Bishop Baraga. . . . At present I am trying to complete a larger catechism . . . and seventy sermons in the Indian tongue for Sundays and feast days. . . . I am wont to give some attention to gardening and to agriculture because I have not only to teach the Indians religion but also a practical economy, which will advance their temporal and eternal welfare. In order to civilize them I must myself often show them the use of the sickle, scythe, plow, and flail.<sup>13</sup>

Upon arriving at a village Pierz would first call on the chief. After the salutation and greeting were given the chief would be presented with tobacco and his squaw with needles, thread, or a handkerchief. After thus winning the good will of the "first family" of the village, the missionary would explain to the chief the purpose of his visit and, if the chief was willing, the braves were called for a conference or a smoker, as the priest called it. When this ceremony was over the missionary was asked by the chief to address the assembly and this "was done in a soft tone of voice, with short pauses and in simple terms." The missionary then left the natives to discuss the affair by themselves. If they resolved to listen to him he set a time for instruction to adults in the morning and evening and for the children in the forenoon and afternoon.

<sup>12</sup> *Berichte*, 17: 53; *Metropolitan Catholic Almanac*, 1844, p. 93.

<sup>13</sup> *Berichte*, 17: 57.

After sufficient instruction had been given the class was baptized and the missionary went off to other fields. But before leaving his new converts, the missionary always appointed a reliable and exemplary man to lead services on Sunday and to conduct school during his absence. This system bore fruit, for by the year 1841 heathenism was wiped out at La Croix.<sup>14</sup>

Accepting Christianity was a great hardship to many Indian women and children, for polygamy was not permitted to Christians and many women consequently found themselves without homes. The missionary found it necessary to supply them with homes where they could be trained to help themselves. D. P. Bushnell, subagent at La Pointe, reported in 1839 that Father Pierz had established a school at Grand Portage, which was attended by fifty-eight Indian and seventeen French pupils, and that they were given courses in reading and writing. Middleton, La Croix, Arbre Croche, and Traverse Bay had schools under this missionary's care. In 1836 the La Croix school had an attendance of thirty-two pupils and Arbre Croche in 1845 had as many as two hundred. In general the subjects taught in these schools were plain sewing, knitting, spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.<sup>15</sup>

This work of civilizing and instructing was ineffective as long as the Indian continued to roam about, living on the hunt alone and changing his abode with the season. These Indian habits disrupted classes, and agriculture could not be followed up by people who continued to live a nomad life. Father Pierz tried to persuade the natives to build homes, hoping that this would keep them closer to him. But unless he could assure them enough food by means other than hunting, he realized that he would find it impossible to induce them to live in one place. He therefore taught the Indians to prepare the soil and to sow and reap crops. In the vicinity of Arbre Croche he

<sup>14</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 91-93; *Berichte*, 15: 64.

<sup>15</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 71; N. H. Winchell, *The Aborigines of Minnesota*, 640 (St. Paul, 1911); *Metropolitan Catholic Almanac*, 1844, p. 93; *Berichte*, 10: 44; United States Indian Office, *Reports*, 1849, p. 203.



procured two thousand acres of land from the government for agricultural purposes, and in six years he had most of the Indians there living in neat houses and getting their food from the products of the fields and the returns from the fish and maple sugar industries. By the year 1847 his converts had cleared seven inclosures, were selling half of their grain to the white settlers of the vicinity, and had shipped to other parts ten thousand measures of potatoes in one year. Those living at Arbre Croche alone in a single year sold four hundred barrels of fish and eight thousand pounds of sugar.<sup>16</sup>

In this work Pierz had to contend not only with the nature of the Indian but also with the opposition of the fur-trader. It was to the advantage of the latter to keep the Indian poor and uncivilized so that he might have no other resource than hunting. Thus he would continue to bring in furs for the market. Father Pierz declared that the traders did much to prejudice the natives against the Christian faith and that they "put all possible obstacles in the way of the missionary, aiming to retard as long as possible the agricultural training of the Indians in favor of their own sordid interests."<sup>17</sup>

Another obstacle to be overcome by the missionary was the liquor evil. To suppress this was one of his hardest problems, for he had to deal not only with the Indian and the trader but with the half-breed. The traders used liquor to facilitate their trade in pelts, but the half-breed liquor trafficker was more dangerous, for his concoction was of a fouler and more poisonous sort. Moreover, he would follow the individual Indian even to his trapping grounds, and there, after a good pile of pelts was gathered, would induce the hunter to drink. Thereupon the half-breed would abscond with the pelts. In a

<sup>16</sup> *Berichte*, 22: 97; Indian Office, Reports, 1846, in 29 Congress, 2 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 4, p. 262 (serial 497); 1847, in 30 Congress, 1 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 8, p. 820 (serial 515).

<sup>17</sup> *Berichte*, 15: 71.



letter written in February, 1854, to Bishop Cretin of St. Paul, Father Pierz complained that within three days after the government pay day all the provisions, blankets, and money given out by the government were in the hands of these whisky agents. Within a month there was much sickness and suffering from lack of food and from the cold, for the natives had missed the fishing and planting season and the fall hunting. The liquor business must have been profitable to those engaged in it, if the prices quoted by Father Pierz are accurate. He mentions the sale of one bottle of whisky for twenty dollars and two gallons of brew for forty dollars, and tells that at another time for fifty blankets an Indian was given two gallons of so-called liquor made up of tobacco juice, water, and some whisky.<sup>18</sup>

Father Pierz often acted as physician for the unfortunate Indians. He was a strong believer in homeopathy and treated many sick among the pagans as well as among the Christians, thus breaking down prejudice and bringing to him many who otherwise would not have come near him. During the small-pox epidemic of 1846, which struck several northwestern bands with destruction, the doctor of the Mackinac region was himself sick and unable to answer Father Pierz's call for help. The missionary sent for vaccine and administered it to nine hundred individuals, giving himself no rest or care, though he was then in his sixtieth year.<sup>19</sup>

All this was done without the assistance of an American missionary society and without the help of the United States government. Pierz did appeal to the government for a small pittance of a teacher's salary, but the request was not heeded. The Leopoldine Society of Vienna and the Ludwig Mission

<sup>18</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 87; *Annalen der Verbreitung des Glaubens*, 22: 171. A file of this publication, which consists of the reports of missionaries sent out by the *Ludwig-Missionsverein*, a Bavarian organization similar to the *Leopoldinen-Stiftung*, is in the library of St. John's University.

<sup>19</sup> *Berichte*, 21: 71; Indian Office, Reports, 1847, in 30 Congress, 1 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 1, p. 910 (serial 515).

Society of Bavaria listened to his appeals and responded to the best of their ability, but the amount given to Pierz was small in comparison with the sums expended by the United States government and the Protestants through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.<sup>20</sup>

Pierz's missionary trips were the greatest drain on his meager resources, as he tells in a letter written in 1841.

The Indian missionary must enter upon his difficult and dangerous journey through forests, without road or path, over streams and lakes, which he crosses in birch-bark canoes. Around many obstructions to navigation the canoe must be carried on the shoulders — a work for which French-Canadians are used. These helpers must be given not only three portions of bacon, bread, and tea daily, but also at least one dollar per person. The interpreter must be paid twice this sum as his daily fee. Therefore the cost of such a missionary journey, with at least four men companions and the indispensable interpreter, comes to more than twenty florins daily and increases to a higher fee if the mission work requires many days or some months.<sup>21</sup>

Despite the cost and hardships of such journeys, Father Pierz traveled over a thousand miles each year. He preferred such rough work, however, to labor in a semicivilized field. His work was not with Christians, but rather with pagans; and as soon as the greater number of the inhabitants of a village were converted, he left them to plant the seed of Christianity in other places. He felt it was possible to get priests to carry on the work he had started, but that missionaries to the pagans were scarce. This spirit of restlessness under the restraint of life in a well-ordered community and the feeling of impatience with the slow progress of the converts began to show itself anew in 1847, and it was increased later in the year when on a visit to Father Otto Skolla, the Franciscan missionary at La Pointe, Pierz met some Chippewa Indians from the Mississippi River.

<sup>20</sup> *Berichte*, 15: 66.

<sup>21</sup> *Berichte*, 15: 69.

In 1851 the diocese of St. Paul was organized, and the Chipewewa of Minnesota came under the care of the head of that diocese, Bishop Joseph Cretin. He knew of Father Pierz's success as a missionary and asked him to join the new diocese and work among the Indians. Pierz was only too glad to accept the invitation, and with the consent of his bishop he handed over his missions to his two assistants and started for St. Paul, reaching there on June 18, 1852.<sup>22</sup> In view of the shortage of priests in this new diocese, Pierz was also authorized to minister to the white settlers scattered along the Mississippi River for a hundred miles. Thus Indians, half-breeds, traders, and land-seekers were the elements composing his new flock. The missionary arrived at Crow Wing on July 20 in company with a trader named Beaulieu, who had traveled fifty miles to meet him.<sup>23</sup> This trader feared that the missionary's first impression of the Indians at Crow Wing would not be very favorable, for they were having a war dance at the time; but no doubt this news only made the seasoned missionary more anxious to reach his post of duty. That fall and winter he spent at Crow Wing, and he built a church and school on the spot where he saw the war dance at the time of his entrance into the settlement.<sup>24</sup> In the spring and summer of 1853 and 1854 he sought out the white settlers along the Mississippi River at Sauk Rapids, Swan River, and Belle Prairie and organized parishes at each place, and in the latter year he visited the German settlements at St. Cloud and St. Joseph. As soon as possible he left the settlers and returned to his

<sup>22</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 84.

<sup>23</sup> A baptismal register kept by Father Pierz from 1852 on opens with the statement that the Crow Wing mission was established on August 1. The original is in the parish house at Belle Prairie, Minnesota; the Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy.

<sup>24</sup> A paper in the Pierz collection at the St. Paul Seminary, dated August 9, 1852, shows that Captain John B. S. Todd, the commandant at Fort Ripley, gave Father Pierz permission to occupy any piece of land not exceeding twenty acres in size for church purposes.

Indians, visiting for the first time in 1853 those at Mille Lacs and Sandy Lake.<sup>25</sup>

The journey from Crow Wing to Mille Lacs, which was one of the hardest trips he ever made, Pierz describes as follows:

Two-thirds of the distance was made on foot over poor roads through brush and timber and one-third was made by water. We crossed six lakes in a birch-bark canoe weighing two hundred pounds, which my catechist had to carry on his shoulders when crossing portages. My cook carried the kitchen utensils and food weighing about a hundred and fifty pounds. My burden was the whole portative chapel with the articles needed for mass and the books, as well as blankets weighing seventy pounds.

. . . It is impossible to travel on horseback in summer because the road lies through five deep, dirty swamps and over thousands of fallen trees and execrable hunters' trails. For two days we traveled amid indescribable hardships. On such a wretched way I often stumbled over roots and I once had such an unfortunate fall that I was obliged to remain where I fell for some time until I was rested and could rise. . . .

The worst feature of this trip was the fact that in my hasty departure I forgot my mosquito netting and my gloves and for two days I had to keep waving a leafy branch about my head to keep off the never-ceasing swarms of mosquitoes. In this process my hands were tortured. Nevertheless I was so badly stung about the face and on the hands by bold attackers that I suffered as much pain from the bites as if I had a severe case of nettlerash.

At the close of the second day we came so close to the Indian village that we could see their wigwams. Our attention being taken away from the canoe for a moment, it struck a tree in the water and we had to land at once and spend the night in a swamp.<sup>26</sup>

Father Pierz had hitherto dreaded the coming of settlers among the Indians, but by this time he saw that they would have the land sooner or later; and, since the transition was inevitable, he wanted God-fearing men to come and have the advantage of free lands. Therefore he added to his many activities that of prospector and "booster" for Minnesota. Though

<sup>25</sup> Pierz's baptismal register, 1853-44.

<sup>26</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 89. See also *Berichte*, 26: 57.

his prospectus entitled "*Eine kurze Beschreibung des Minnesota-Territoriums*," published for the purpose of making Minnesota better known to the Germans in the United States and abroad, may at times seem somewhat exaggerated, probably few of those who were persuaded to come were disappointed after settling in the state. As a result of this sketch and similar articles that Father Pierz published, fifty families took up land at St. Joseph and Jacob's Prairie. It is safe to say that the majority of settlements established in Stearns County during the late fifties are the result of Pierz's advertising of this section among the Germans.<sup>27</sup> Having been instrumental in bringing these settlers to the region, it devolved upon him to attend to their religious needs. Thus Father Pierz was the founder of the Catholic parishes of Sauk Rapids, Swan River, and Belle Prairie in 1853; of St. Cloud and St. Joseph in 1854; and of St. Augusta in 1855. It is true that these parishes were visited by the missionary but two or three times a year, much to the disappointment of the settlers. In his articles about the region Pierz stated that churches had already been built at Sauk Rapids, St. Joseph, and St. Cloud—a report that gave readers the impression that these places had pastors.<sup>28</sup> Father Pierz was now seventy years of age and his work instead of growing lighter was, because of the influx of settlers, growing too heavy for one man, especially an old man. At his suggestion, Bishop Cretin asked the Benedictine fathers of Pennsylvania to attend to the German settlers of this part of the diocese.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>27</sup> The prospectus is printed in Pierz, *Indianer*, 117–130. The author relates that similar material had been published in the *Wahrheits-Freund*, a Catholic weekly newspaper published in Cincinnati. An incomplete file of this paper is in the library of St. John's University, but the issues that contain Pierz's advertising are missing. Pierz's sister's family was among the first to settle at St. Joseph. A district in Wakefield Township, Stearns County, is known locally as Jacob's Prairie.

<sup>28</sup> Pierz, *Indianer*, 128.

<sup>29</sup> See August C. Krey, "Monte Cassino, Metten, and Minnesota," *ante*, 8: 223–225.

The arrival of the Benedictines in the summer of 1856 allowed Father Pierz to give all his attention to his Indian missions of Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and Sandy Lake. Indeed they needed his whole attention, for the Chippewa, Sioux, and Winnebago Indians were continually fighting. Their feuds were constantly interfering with the missionary's work of civilization and sorely tried his patience and ability as a peace-maker. In 1858 Father Lawrence Lautischar was sent to assist Father Pierz, and together they established a mission at Red Lake on August 1. After spending two months here, Father Pierz left his assistant to continue the work, giving him strict instructions to attempt no journeys during the winter, but to spend the time in teaching school at the mission house. The veteran missionary retained for himself the dangerous task of long winter trips. But on December 10, while he was at Belle Prairie, a messenger brought the news that Father Lautischar had frozen to death while returning from a sick call to a heathen Indian living across the lake. Ordinarily a man of seventy-three would have given up at this point, but not so the old missionary. He even refused an invitation from Father Augustin Ravoux, administrator of the diocese, to go to St. Paul for a well earned rest.<sup>30</sup>

Father Pierz felt that he now had double work to perform, and in February, 1859, he visited Leech Lake, his newest mission, making the trip of eighty miles in three days. For two months he worked strenuously at this place, giving instruction to children and adults. He found these Indians true to his high appraisal of Chippewa ability, for in three weeks the members of his class were ready to receive baptism. In fact he felt that he had never succeeded so well anywhere else. His success he attributed first to the fact that the Indians

<sup>30</sup> *Annalen der Verbreitung des Glaubens*, 27:388; Father Augustin Ravoux to the *Association pour la propagation de la foi*, September 3, 1858, in the archives of the association at Paris. The Minnesota Historical Society has a translation of this letter.

there were suffering from famine, which forced many to him who otherwise would never venture near; and second to his knowledge of medicine, which helped him to do much to alleviate suffering. In 1861 he visited Otter Tail Lake, but spent only eight days there. Nevertheless, his records show that baptism was administered to one person.<sup>81</sup>

In a letter to the Leopoldine Society written on April 15, 1863, Pierz states that no new missions were founded in the year 1862 on account of the Indian uprising against the white settlers. Then follows a very sympathetic account of the threatened Chippewa uprising and of the important part played in its suppression by the missionary himself. This account is worth quoting, for it gives a version of the affair not generally known.

After our poor Chippewa Indians had been miserably deceived for many years by selfish fur-traders, ruined to a great extent by the godless liquor merchants, robbed of a portion of their goods by faithless government officials, and left in the utmost need, and, it is said, also aroused to hostility by secret instigators from the rebels in the South, over four hundred Indians from the Protestant missions of Gull Lake and Leech Lake seized arms and formed a robber's band under the leadership of Chief Hole-in-the-Day. They stole about a hundred head of cattle and some food and clothing from the neighboring whites. To my knowledge, however, they shed no blood, but caused a great deal of fear near and far. The militia and many white settlers were called to arm themselves and to annihilate the savage rebels or drive them from the state of Minnesota.

Our kind-hearted president immediately sent a government commissioner, Mr. MacDole, from Washington to offer the rebels forgiveness and peace.<sup>82</sup> Instead of going to Crow Wing to discuss peace terms, the Indians plundered a house near Crow Wing the next night and planned to rob and burn the village of Crow

<sup>81</sup> *Annalen der Verbreitung des Glaubens*, 27: 498; Pierz's baptismal register, September 1, 1861.

<sup>82</sup> Pierz is referring to William P. Dole, United States commissioner of Indian Affairs. An account of the "Chippewa Disturbance of 1862" is given by Dr. William W. Folwell in his *History of Minnesota*, 2: 374-382 (St. Paul, 1924).



Wing on the following night. When, through a friendly Indian, news of this evil plot was brought to me, I started out alone with a bag of tobacco. . . . Halfway on my journey I met two black-painted riders galloping furiously toward me to warn me that all white travelers found on this route were to be shot down. I pulled a handkerchief out of my pocket, waved it, and stepped a few paces to the side of the road. They merely glanced at me and rode off without speaking. I soon met . . . about thirty men, who surrounded me and asked: "Father, where are you going?" "I wish to speak with the chief men," was my answer. "That is impossible, for no white man may see them," and they showed me a line on the road, over which no white man might pass on pain of death. I laughed at that and stuck out my foot, saying, "I do not fear your death." A second later I was caught up by four Indians and set down ten paces beyond the line. Laughing they said, "Now father, you have not disobeyed the chief's order, for you were carried over the line. You shall live." A few steps farther these savages showed me another sign, two lines across the path, and explained that I should certainly lose my life if I passed them, because here the dwellings of the chief men began. I said to them that if such was the case, their chief men should come to me. Thereupon I sent someone to tell the chiefs of my arrival and to invite them to come to see me. They came immediately. I greeted them and held out some tobacco to them as a token of friendship. This pleased them exceedingly. Then I asked them why they had come and what they expected to do. No one answered; they looked gloomily at one another and hung their heads in shame. "If you will not answer," I said, "I will speak to you. Now listen to me. You know that the priests are sent as God's messengers to preach and to teach the Truth to all peoples, in order to avert evil from them and to incline them toward good."

All five chiefs with all their warriors surrounded me, attentively listening to my words. I held forth to them in their language for half an hour in this manner, showing them how foolish and unwise was their stand against the mighty white nation, how great a crime murder and depredation are in the eyes of God, and how they are always followed by severe punishment in this world and the next. Finally, by means of my fatherly compassion, I made them understand the dreadful consequences of their ineffectual attitude and I told them that many regiments of well drilled soldiers and crowds of enraged citizens were already marching against them, who would surround them and wipe out



all the Indians as well as their wives and children. Finally I gave them my well-intentioned advice, to use to the best advantage the three days of grace still remaining and to go to Crow Wing, meet all charges, and arrange for peace.

These poor people touched and enlightened by my speech cried from all sides "*E, E, Nose, Yes, Yes, Father.*" The head chief, Hole-in-the-Day, gave me his hand and said, "Father, today we will go to Crow Wing and make peace." The other four chiefs concurred.

In a few days the difficulties were settled, and the Indians promised to let the work of civilization proceed in their camps and asked Pierz to come and live among them. Thus his interference in the uprising proved successful. Pierz declared with pride that not one of the Indians of his six missions was connected with this revolt; all the revolters were heathens or members of other missions.<sup>33</sup>

The season of 1863 was such a strenuous one that Father Pierz traveled to St. Paul to beg assistance from Bishop Grace. But the bishop did not think it possible to promise an assistant, for his struggling diocese could not supply enough priests for the white settlements. Because he was disappointed here and received no answers to his repeated written requests to the Leopoldine and Ludwig mission societies, Pierz decided to go to Europe and make a personal appeal to the priests and seminarians there. In January, 1864, he arrived unexpectedly at Laibach to canvass for candidates. Apparently he used the same zeal and energy there as in his work in Minnesota, for sixteen young men returned with him to Minnesota.<sup>34</sup> Before being sent to the mission fields they studied in seminaries in the United States until they were ordained, and therefore Father Pierz had to continue working alone from April to November, 1864. But in the latter month Fathers

<sup>33</sup> *Berichte*, 33: 29-34.

<sup>34</sup> These men were Buh, Plut, Trobec, Katzer, Zuzek, Tomazin, Berg-hold, Tomazevic, Spath, Stern, Erlah, Pauletic, and four others who did not finish their studies for the priesthood. Seliskar, in *Acta et Dicta*, 3: 85.

Joseph Buh and John Zuzek were sent to assist him, and the next spring Father Ignatius Tomazin arrived to relieve Father Pierz at Crow Wing, and Father James Trobec went to help Father Buh, who had been appointed pastor at Belle Prairie.<sup>35</sup>

Father Pierz's work as pathfinder was now closed; he had blazed the trail alone for many years and in 1865 he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. But that did not mean that this indefatigable missionary was going to retire. His life of feverish exertion would not allow that. In a letter dated July 30, 1866, the year after his golden jubilee, he wrote:

As I returned to Crow Wing yesterday, tired from a long mission journey, I learned through my worthy Bishop Thomas Grace that 500 florins in gold had come for me from the Leopoldine Society. . . . This gift from Heaven came at a most opportune time, for my money had given out as a result of my very arduous missionary trips and care for my beloved Indians and hungry woodsmen. I am pleased to impart the happy news that since last spring Father Ignaz Tomasin, my zealous helper, and I have been able to open three new missions among the heathen Chippewa . . . at Leech Lake and Cass Lake. . . . As soon as we procure provisions and other necessities for a mission we will return to these places and continue the work begun there. . . . I am counting again, with all confidence in God's great providence, on the help of the Leopoldine Society and on the willingness of my European mission friends to make sacrifices. However I will gladly set my eighty-year-old bones in motion again to seek the lost sheep in this inhospitable Indian wilderness.<sup>36</sup>

In the early part of 1867 Pierz made a journey of a hundred miles in ten days to the Sandy Lake Indians. He traveled with horse and sled and spent four nights in the open. But despite his ambition and the fact that the free, roving life was dear to him, he found that exertion began to tell on him, and he was forced to lessen his physical activities. He was thus obliged to spend his winters at Crow Wing entirely; only dur-

<sup>35</sup> *Berichte*, 36: 54, 61; Seliskar, in *Acta et Dicta*, 3: 86; *Sadlier's Catholic Almanac*, 1865, p. 187, 190, 217, 252, 256.

<sup>36</sup> *Berichte*, 36: 63.

ing the summer months did he travel. An attack of pneumonia impaired his health still further. In fact he never fully recovered from the attack. This weakening of his physical powers, which was hastened by a number of accidents, caused him at the age of eighty-six to give up all his missions and to retire to Rich Prairie in 1871.<sup>37</sup>

By the middle of 1873 Pierz was fully incapacitated for work. He lost his eyesight and his memory weakened day by day. That summer he bade farewell to his Indians after thirty-eight years spent among them and returned to Europe to spend his last days in his native country.<sup>38</sup> On January 22, 1880, he died at the ripe age of ninety-five.

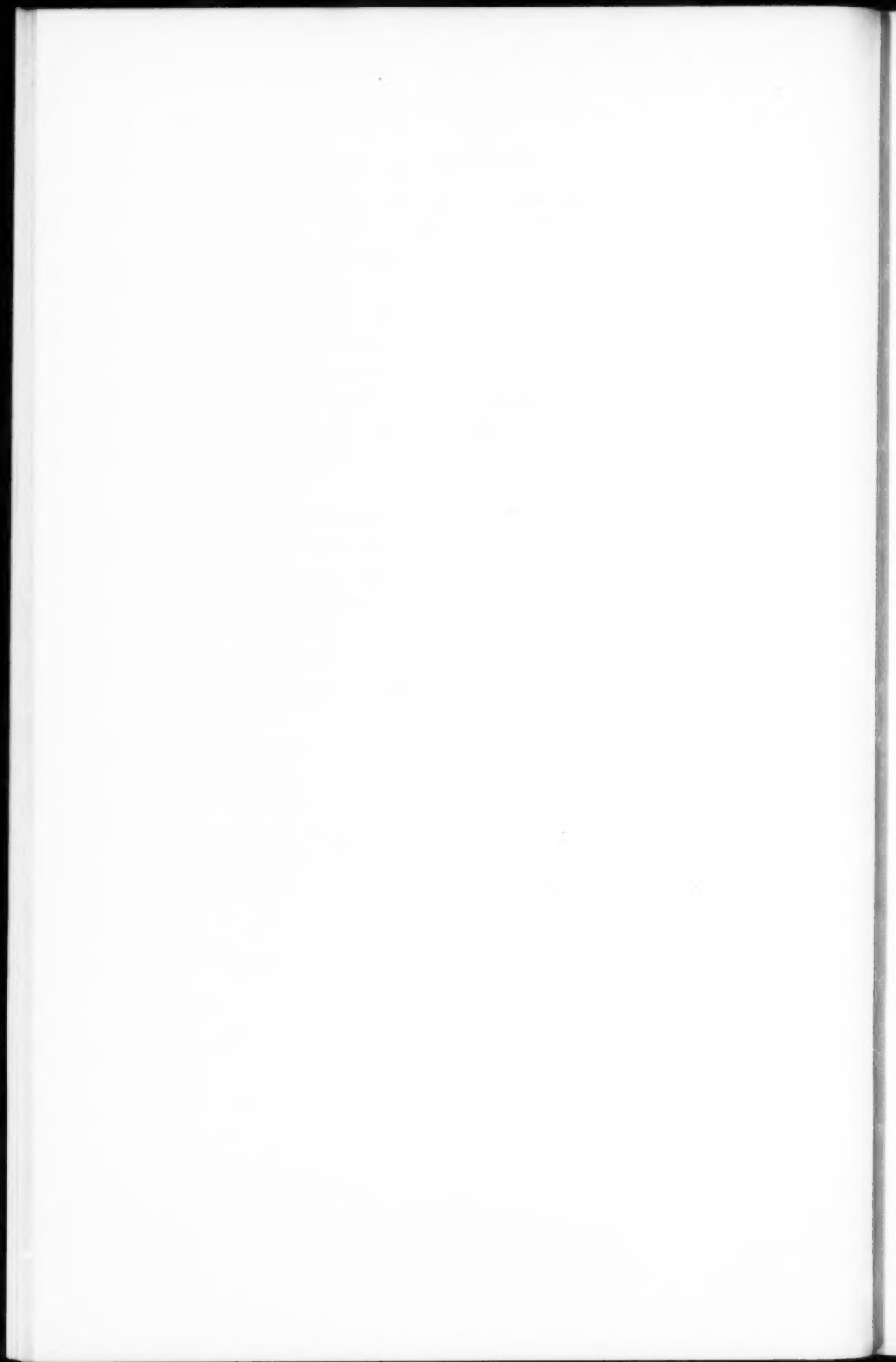
So lived and died this pioneer missionary of Minnesota. There may have been men who spent all their lives laboring on the missions, but there were none who accomplished more in the same space of time, none who gave of themselves more than Father Pierz. He worked constantly and with never a thought of personal gain or glory, and he doubtless passed from this world in that peace of soul that bespeaks a consciousness of work well done.

#### SISTER GRACE McDONALD

COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT  
ST. JOSEPH, MINNESOTA

<sup>37</sup> Rich Prairie is now known as Pierz. Father Pierz put a notice of his retirement in *Der Wanderer* (St. Paul) for July 1, 1871.

<sup>38</sup> *St. Cloud Journal*, June 26, 1873.



## SOME COLONIZATION PROJECTS OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD<sup>1</sup>

The nature of the relationship between the construction of railroads and the settlement of people within a given area varies according to the period and the circumstances. On the one hand, a region well supplied with natural resources for agricultural and industrial development will eventually attract large numbers of people; it is then only a question of time and politics until the area will be properly equipped with transportation facilities. On the other hand, railroads advancing into the same sort of country, prior to its settlement and development, will eventually attract the clientele necessary for the continuance and progress of their operations.

In Europe the railroad merely replaced an outworn system of transportation with a more efficient one in a land already occupied and well developed. In the United States the railroad has been the explorer of the frontier. From the time it first penetrated beyond the Alleghenies it often preceded the settler and impelled him to continue his movement westward. It "has opened up new territory, brought in population, created new industries and new wealth. It has served not as a mere connecting link between communities, but as a creative energy to bring them into existence."<sup>2</sup> In no part of the country has this activity of the railroad been more pronounced nor more typical than in the Northwest, where it did much to influence the future by stimulating and even financing immigration and settlement. The wilderness of 1850 was transformed into a home for millions by 1900 largely through the laying of the iron rail and the subsequent development of an efficient means of transportation.

<sup>1</sup> A paper read at the eightieth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society on January 21, 1929. *Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> James J. Hill, *Highways of Progress*, 236 (New York, 1910).

Minnesota, like the other states of the Northwest, had characteristic inducements to offer the immigrant and prospective settler. Beautiful lakes, a healthful climate, fertile soil, and an abundance of cheap land — these were fit attractions for the nationalities of northern Europe and the classes of the New World who sought agricultural labor and outdoor life. Such a situation offered a tempting proposition to the railroads, and their development was both a natural precedent and an inevitable consequence of Minnesota's growth. Among the various causes that contributed to the rapid progress of railroads in this state after 1862 were munificent land grants by the federal and state governments, demand for a wheat and corn-producing soil, and the gradual extinction of cheap public lands in the older states. It was not, however, until 1870 and the years immediately following that the competition for settlers between the railroads of Minnesota and the lines of the other mid-western states grew especially keen. The thousands who were leaving Europe and the eastern portions of the United States had a wide range of lands from which to choose their permanent abiding places. Their choice was influenced to a very great degree, it is perhaps needless to say, by the climate, the character of the soil, and the abundance of forests. But more than this there were large numbers whose choice was "influenced or determined by free lands, political and religious conditions, groups of fellow countrymen already settled in a State or Territory, the solicitation of land and railroad companies, or the invitation of the State or community."<sup>3</sup>

With no degree of certainty can it be determined which of these various influences was the dominant factor in the replacement of the Indian, the fur-trader, and the adventurer by the artisan, the merchant, and the "hunger-fighter"; in the substitution of populous cities for scattered colonies and of wheat-filled elevators for isolated sod houses; in the transformation

<sup>3</sup> Marcus L. Hansen, "Official Encouragement of Immigration to Iowa," in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, 19: 159 (April, 1921).

of the Territory of Minnesota into a well-peopled state. This much, however, is certain — that all the land-grant railroads in Minnesota, whether transcontinental or purely local in character, made strong efforts to attract settlers to lands contiguous to their lines. All had lands of practically equal merit to offer. The roads that wished to expand most rapidly, therefore, were forced to use other and more fruitful means of inducement than the advertisement of the advantages of their lands in order to attract settlers.

The idea of sponsoring the formation of colonies that would settle on railroad lands or on territory adjacent to railroad lines was developed early. Such a project was mutually beneficial. To the companies it meant more rapid taking up of land and the consequent enlargement of a constituency that would soon include shippers as well as consumers of railway-transported products. To the prospective settlers it meant ease and comfort in traveling, a certain assurance that they had a definite place to which to go, and the satisfaction of knowing that they could emigrate with friends and relatives and live in the same community with them upon arrival in the new land.

As will be seen in subsequent illustrations, some of the colonies were formed among Europeans before they left their native lands; others had their inception in the eastern parts of the United States or Canada. Some of the groups were sponsored by the representatives of religious sects; some were placed under the more direct charge of appointees of the companies; others were under the supervision of land companies and were almost independent of the railroads. Always, however, the colonizing agents and the railroad companies coöperated closely and synchronized their efforts. The latter usually aided by supplying the advertising, offering reduced rates, erecting receiving houses, and making all the customary inducements.

No road with lines in Minnesota was more active in this type of commercial enterprise, perhaps, than the Northern

Pacific. This road was chartered on July 2, 1864, with a grant of 12,800 acres per mile through the states and twice that amount through the territories that it would traverse in following its course from Lake Superior to the Pacific. After incorporation the company passed through a five-year period spent in an attempt to get further government aid for the project.<sup>4</sup> Actual laying of track was started in 1870 through the assistance of Jay Cooke and Company, bankers, and by the end of the next year 229 miles of rails had been laid across Minnesota. The road passed through the growing village of Brainerd, on the upper Mississippi, to Moorhead, on the Red River.<sup>5</sup>

It was one of the avowed purposes of the Northern Pacific, according to Jay Cooke, "to promote, so far as possible, immigration by colonies, so that neighbors in Fatherland may be neighbors in the new West."<sup>6</sup> During the early seventies, when the competition for settlers was becoming increasingly keen among the railroads of Minnesota, the Northern Pacific

<sup>4</sup> Lewis H. Haney, *A Congressional History of Railways in the United States, 1850-1887*, 142-144 (Madison, Wisconsin, 1910); *Congressional Globe*, 39 Congress, 1 session, 3361, 3807, 3866; United States, *Statutes at Large*, 14: 255, 15: 255, 346.

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota Commissioner of Statistics, *Report*, 1880, p. 247; *Progress of the Northern Pacific Railroad*. The latter is a four-page folder published by Jay Cooke and Company in 1871.

<sup>6</sup> Jay Cooke to the president of the immigration convention at Indianapolis, in the *Duluth Minnesotian*, December 31, 1870. A more complete statement follows:

This company aims, first, to select as its immigration agents, at home and abroad, only men of the highest character; second, to permit no representation to be made by its authority, which the facts will not fully warrant; third, to promote, so far as possible, immigration by colonies, so that neighbors in Fatherland may be neighbors in the new West; fourth, to exercise over immigrants, from the time they leave one home until they reach another, whatever supervision their best interests may require, seeing to it that transportation charges are the lowest obtainable; that accommodations on ships and cars are comfortable; that their treatment is kind; their protection against fraud, compulsion, and abuse of all sorts complete; that every dollar of unnecessary expenditure en route is avoided, and the emigrant enabled to husband his scanty means for the work of starting a homestead.



was one of the first to develop an organization to carry out its colonization plans. This rather complex organization included a land department, designed to hasten the sale of its lands, and an emigration department, with a European agency, designed to speed up the settlement of territory adjacent to its lines.<sup>7</sup> These departments were expected to bring to a successful fruition the aims of Jay Cooke and had for their special purpose the promotion of immigration by colonies. The departments began to function actively in the early months of 1872 and continued to operate until July, 1874, when financial conditions in the United States caused them to be discontinued until 1879.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> An advertisement at the end of W. Milnor Roberts, *Special Report of a Reconnaissance of the Route for the Northern Pacific Railroad between Lake Superior and Puget Sound* (Philadelphia, 1869), published by Jay Cooke and Company, notes that the railroad is organizing a department of emigration to "facilitate and render certain the rapid sale and settlement of its lands, and to promote the early development of the entire belt of Northwestern States and Territories tributary to the road." This is described by the company's land commissioner in a pamphlet entitled *Letter of John S. Loomis to Frederick Billings, Chairman of Land Committee, February 20, 1871, Recommending a Plan for the Organization and Operation of Land Department, Including Plans for Promoting Emigration and Land Settlement*, 3-11 (New York, 1871). A copy of this pamphlet is in the archives of the land department of the Northern Pacific Railroad at St. Paul. Loomis' plan is admirably discussed by James B. Hedges in an article on "The Colonization Work of the Northern Pacific Railroad" in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 13: 314-317 (December, 1926).

<sup>8</sup> A wealth of manuscript material relating to the colonization activities of the Northern Pacific is to be found in the archives of the land department of the company. Sixteen bound volumes of letters, covering especially the years from 1871 to 1874 and each containing from a hundred to two hundred and fifty letters, were used in the preparation of this paper. They bear the following titles: "Foreign Agents," 5 volumes; "Lands and Colonies," 4 volumes; "Minnesota Agents," 2 volumes; "Soldiers' Colonies," 1 volume; "Foreign Emigration," 1 volume; "Yeoil Colony," 1 volume; "Red River Colony," 1 volume; and "Detroit Lake Colony," 1 volume. In referring to these letters the names of the volumes in which they are contained have been used. The writer is indebted to Mr. Richard H. Relf, assistant secretary of the Northern Pacific, for the privilege of using this material.

One of the first of the Northern Pacific colonies to get under way was that of the New England Military and Naval Bureau of Migration at Detroit Lake in Becker County and the Red River Valley. In 1871 the Northern Pacific organized a bureau of immigration for soldiers and sailors, pursuant to an act of Congress dated July 15, 1870, providing homesteads for veterans of the War of the Rebellion. In November, 1871, this bureau, which had headquarters in New York and was part of the land department, published a pamphlet suggesting the organization of colonies. According to this publication "colonies duly organized" could send out committees "to secure the most favorable locations" before migration started. The railroad company offered to provide transportation at reduced rates, to build reception houses, and to sell "ready-made houses" and building materials at wholesale prices. More than this, it offered to furnish circulars and propaganda to aid in the organization of the work.<sup>9</sup>

Even before the publication of this pamphlet, G. H. Johnston, president of the New England Bureau of Migration, had written to J. Gregory Smith, president of the Northern Pacific, in regard to the organization of a colony to be located near Detroit Lake. The former promised that a thousand people would settle in the colony during the coming year if the following conditions were observed: the Northern Pacific should sell all the lands within the designated township; the Puget Sound Town Site Company should not be allowed to locate land in this township; timber land for building purposes should be reserved in township 139, range 40; and a section of land should be donated for religious purposes.<sup>10</sup> At a meeting

<sup>9</sup> George B. Hibbard, *Land Department of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, Bureau of Immigration for Soldiers and Sailors*, 1, 4, 8 (New York, 1871).

<sup>10</sup> Johnston to Smith, August 1, 1871 (copy), in "Detroit Lake Colony." Johnston wrote from Detroit Lake. The Puget Sound Town Site Company, a colonizing company organized on the Pacific coast, was planning to found several colonies along the lines of the Northern Pacific, and it had been

of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific at Brainerd in the middle of August, Johnston's letter was presented and it was decided "that in order to secure early Emigration, and in view of the circumstances of this particular case, the Land Committee be instructed to sell to the New England Bureau of Migration the Township Number 139 North, Range 41 West, reserving to this Company all the land it may declare to be necessary and convenient for its own uses." Smith informed Johnston of this action on August 19 and arrangements satisfactory to both parties were subsequently agreed upon.<sup>11</sup> By December printed matter issued by the Northern Pacific was being distributed to all the post commanders of the New England Bureau of Migration in Massachusetts, and arrangements were pending to run one-inch advertisements in a number of weekly newspapers for four weeks. Johnston was successful, too, in securing the coöperation of the governor of Massachusetts in the matter of encouraging emigration. A preliminary settlement had evidently been made at Detroit Lake prior to this time, for early in 1872 Johnston complained to Loomis that the people there were not getting the railroad privileges and accommodations extended to others. He also asked for new postal facilities, since the route via Otter Tail had been abandoned.<sup>12</sup>

Events moved rapidly after this. On January 25, 1872, Johnston thanked the Northern Pacific for the aid it was giving the emigration plan. He also announced his satisfaction with the mail arrangements that had been made and asked

negotiating with the railroad for several sites, one of which was in the Red River Valley. In his letter to Smith, Johnston expresses the fear that the colonists that the Puget Sound Company would bring into the region would be ruffians, and he evidently was trying to prevent them from settling near his colony.

<sup>11</sup> Memorandum dated August 14, 1871; Smith to Johnston, August 19, 1871, in "Detroit Lake Colony."

<sup>12</sup> Johnston to George B. Hibbard, December 20, 21, 1871; to Loomis January 18, 1872, in "Detroit Lake Colony."

regarding the possibility of free railroad transportation for the battery and equipment of an artillery company that was being organized. On February 2 he wrote that "everything is lovely and the goose hangs high." The company was spreading its organization to different states, and prominent soldiers in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and other states were sought as vice presidents or asked to give references. Efforts were made to get the indorsements of Generals Burnside and Hawley, for it was felt that their names would look well in print.<sup>13</sup>

A small group of people bound for the Detroit Lake colony left the East early in March, 1872, and the main party departed about the first of April. Smaller bodies of colonists continued to leave throughout the next few weeks, many of them being men of means who planned to start various kinds of enterprises in the West.<sup>14</sup> Members of the first of these detachments, who arrived in Detroit on April 9, were somewhat disgusted with the conditions they found, it appears. Four of the colonists, who left almost immediately for St. Paul, complained that the climate was like New England in November, that snow was everywhere; that the soil was only a foot deep instead of three, as Johnston had described it; that the timber was good for firewood only; and that the land was well watered as advertised, but so well watered that a fifth of the township was swamp land.<sup>15</sup>

The Northern Pacific gave the struggling colony real constructive aid in June, when the board of directors passed a resolution authorizing the construction of five hundred houses for settlers on the lands of the company. These were to be sold on the same terms as the company gave in selling lands,

<sup>13</sup> Johnston to Loomis, January 25, 1872; to Hibbard, February 2, 1872, in "Detroit Lake Colony."

<sup>14</sup> Johnston to Loomis, March 9, 1872; to J. G. Dudley, May 14, 1872, in "Detroit Lake Colony"; E. M. Brown to Hibbard, April 15, 1872, in "Soldiers' Colonies."

<sup>15</sup> *Saint Paul Daily Press*, April 16, 1872.

"that is, one-tenth down and the balance in ten annual payments." Early in August a traveling reporter of the *Minneapolis Tribune* noted that thirty or forty houses had been constructed and that a newspaper—the *Detroit Record*—was being published by A. J. Underwood, a former member of the legislature from Hennepin County.<sup>16</sup> The village already had aspirations of becoming the county seat of Becker County.

Little detailed study of the subsequent history of the colony can be made here. The winter of 1872-73 was a severe one for the struggling colonists, who were not yet any too well situated, and it was with considerable difficulty that Johnston counteracted the statements of Boston papers that "the Boston colonists have been obliged to call on the state for aid, as they were freezing and starving to death."<sup>17</sup> The New England Bureau of Migration and Johnston himself continued to spread information about the colony through the fall of 1872, the spring and summer of 1873, and the winter of 1874. There was apparently no abatement of interest in the Detroit Lake colony among Easterners who desired to emigrate.<sup>18</sup>

Another colonial enterprise of a similar nature sponsored by an American company was the so-called Red River colony at Glyndon in Clay County, where the Northern Pacific crossed the St. Vincent extension of the St. Paul and Pacific, one of the roads that was later incorporated in the Great Northern, about forty miles west of the Detroit Lake colony. This scheme was in the hands of L. H. Tenney and D. R. Haynes, heads of the Northwestern Land Agency, with headquarters

<sup>16</sup> *Weekly Record* (Detroit), June 15, 1872; *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 11, 1872.

<sup>17</sup> Johnston to Hibbard, January 18, 1872; March 1, 1872, in "Detroit Lake Colony." See also in this volume a form letter sent out by Johnston asking settlers to describe their experiences with cold weather as compared with their former homes. Johnston spent the winter of 1872-73 at Detroit.

<sup>18</sup> G. H. Johnston to Dudley, August 17, November 13, 1872; to Hibbard, November 29, 1873; James M. Johnston to Hibbard, April 7, July 14, 1873, in "Detroit Lake Colony."

at Duluth. In January, 1872, Tenney got in touch with Frederick Billings, chairman of the Northern Pacific's land committee, regarding the founding of a colony in the vicinity of Detroit Lake, providing land could be obtained there for two thousand families. He asked for very definite information regarding the terms and conditions of sale, the amount and time of payment of commissions, the time allowed for settling lands, the control of town sites, and the facilities for the transportation of fuel and lumber. He hoped, he wrote, to compete with the National colony, started on the Sioux City road by Miller and Hunniston.<sup>19</sup>

A contract was subsequently entered into between the Northern Pacific and an organization known as Tenney and Company, which was controlled by Tenney and H. L. Turner of Chicago. According to the terms of the contract certain lands in Clay County were to come under the exclusive control of Tenney and Company, which was to get a ten per cent commission on all sales; the colonists of the land company were to be offered the same inducements as all the other colonists who settled on railroad lands, that is reception houses, local land agents for recording sales, and similar advantages; the railroad company was to assist the settlers in draining the Red River flats; the Tenney company was to be allowed two years from May 31, 1872, for the sale of its lands; the railroad was to assist in advertising the colony; and the company promised that by January 1, 1873, two-fifths of the reserved land would be sold, or four hundred families would be settled.<sup>20</sup>

By the middle of the following March, Tenney and Company had an extensive advertising campaign under way and as a result were receiving thirty or forty letters of inquiry daily. A part of the advertising scheme consisted in publishing

<sup>19</sup> Tenney to Billings, January 20, 1872, in "Red River Colony."

<sup>20</sup> Billings to Tenney and Turner, February 10, 1872, in "Red River Colony."

the *Red River Gazette* and broadcasting it throughout the land; another phase of Tenney's advertising was the printing of small advertisements in numerous papers of the East and Middle West.<sup>21</sup> The project progressed well throughout the spring of 1872, and early in May the land company reported that colonists were "coming forward in good numbers." A seven-column newspaper was started at Glyndon and Tenney endeavored to get the Northern Pacific to underwrite a hundred copies of each issue, since the articles on the progress of settlement along the line of the road would serve as good advertising material for the railroad as well as for the land company.<sup>22</sup>

By the middle of the summer it appeared that things were going more slowly than had been expected. More than ten thousand dollars had been spent for advertising and other purposes and one thousand dollars had been raised to build a church and school, but only a hundred settlers, representing as many families, had arrived. True, Tenney and Company had received applications for twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of railroad lands, but delays in the construction of reception houses, higher freight rates and living expenses than the *Northern Pacific Guide* had indicated, and wild stories of extremely cold weather in northwestern Minnesota had aroused antagonism toward the Red River colony and, in fact, toward the Northern Pacific. Because of the unexpected delays in

<sup>21</sup> Turner to Billings, March 9, 16, 1872, in "Red River Colony." In the second letter Turner listed some of the newspapers and periodicals in which his company was advertising; they include publications issued in New York, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Hartford, Toledo, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Springfield. In addition the writer noted that small advertisements had been published in 850 county newspapers and two Swedish papers. Some of the advertisements occupied from six inches to a column of space, but those in the county papers usually were not more than two inches long.

<sup>22</sup> Turner to Billings, March 16, 1872; Tenney to Billings, May 18, 1872; Tenney and Company to Billings, May 6, 1872, in "Red River Colony."



getting the colony started, Tenney was anxious to secure an extension of time for carrying out his contract with the railroad. Requests for such an extension for a year beyond the stipulated date were made from time to time throughout the winter of 1872-73, and the company was finally rewarded with success in March, 1873.<sup>23</sup> Its time was extended to June 1, 1875, and a forfeiture clause in the original contract was waived. The Tenney company also secured the right to serve as the local land agent of the Northern Pacific at Glyndon and Duluth. These arrangements made it possible for the company to continue with its colonizing efforts despite the setback of 1873, although, of course, activity was at a minimum for many months.

There is probably no more typical example of a European colony than that which had its inception in the mind of the Reverend George Rodgers of Stalbridge, Dorsetshire, England. His idea ultimately developed into the Yeovil colony, located at Hawley on the Northern Pacific in Clay County just east of Glyndon. In April, 1872, Rodgers proposed to George Sheppard, who was European agent of the Northern Pacific with headquarters in London, the organization of a colony of "good and prosperous persons." Rodgers believed that he could secure two or three hundred people as a nucleus for a village community if he were allowed to make a preliminary inspection of Minnesota conditions. A month later Sheppard notified Billings that he had made an agreement with this Congregational minister to get a colony of people from the south of England for Minnesota. The Northern Pacific was to pay Rodgers a moderate salary and the expenses of a trip of inspection for the purpose of selecting a suitable location.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Tenney and Company to Billings, June 18, 1872; Tenney to Billings, December 25, 1872; William A. Howard to Tenney, March 12, 1873, in "Red River Colony."

<sup>24</sup> Rodgers to Sheppard, April 15, 1872; Sheppard to Billings, May 28, 1872, in "Foreign Agents," vol. 1.



Rodgers and a few companions left Liverpool on July 18 to examine the territory along the Northern Pacific. L. Henderson of the Liverpool agency of the company and Sheppard saw them off. The party of eight, several of whom expected to settle immediately, arrived at Duluth on August 5. Rodgers was both surprised and satisfied with the country he inspected and he reported very favorably on conditions as he found them in Minnesota.<sup>25</sup> He returned to England in the fall to carry out his colonization scheme.

The progress of Rodgers' plan was hampered somewhat by the so-called "Yeovilian Fraud." A bit of *Advice from an Old Yeovilian*, published presumably by the Union Pacific, the Kansas Pacific, and the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroads, advised the English to steer shy of the Northern Pacific lands because of the extreme cold and unbearable conditions in the North. The London agency of the latter road immediately issued a circular, which carried a reprint of *Advice from an Old Yeovilian* and included letters from officials of the railroad companies involved denying their connection with the affair.<sup>26</sup> The circular was distributed widely throughout Somersetshire and Dorsetshire.

As had been planned early in the year, the first group bound for Hawley left Liverpool in March, 1873. There were about eighty in the party, which was under the supervision of Rodgers himself. A second and larger party was to leave about a month later under the direction of S. Partridge.<sup>27</sup> As was the case with the other colonizing projects, the earliest arrivals

<sup>25</sup> *Liverpool Post*, July 19, 1872, quoted in *St. Paul Press*, August 9, 1872; *Duluth Minnesotian*, August 10, 1872. Rodgers' report on "Minnesota as a Field for Emigration" is reprinted in the *Minnesotian* of October 19, 1872, from the *Liverpool Daily Albion*.

<sup>26</sup> Sheppard to Dudley, October 29, 1872, in "Foreign Agents," vol. 2.

<sup>27</sup> Sheppard to Billings, January 10, 1873; to Hibbard, March 22, 1873, in "Foreign Agents," vols. 2, 3; *St. Paul Press*, February 28, 1873. See also a circular dated January 18, 1873, in "Foreign Agents," vol. 3.

were disappointed with the conditions they found. They felt that the land was bad, and they did not believe that all the land had been taken out of the American market as had been promised. Much was done by Rodgers and James B. Power, then general agent of the Northern Pacific at Brainerd and later land commissioner with offices at St. Paul, to keep the colony together and get it properly under way. In May the colony was "finally settled and tranquil," and a month later Rodgers wrote to Hibbard that about fifty farmers were settled on the land and were well pleased with their prospects. It was possible to buy a good farm, he said, for less than one year's rent in England, and he hoped that Hibbard and the Northern Pacific would attempt to induce more good farmers to come. He was anxious, however, to keep out clerks and shopkeepers.<sup>28</sup>

Another colonial experiment, similar to the Rodgers movement and subsequently known as the Furness colony, was started in October, 1872. On October 22 a public meeting was held in Furness County, in northern England, at which it was determined to form a colony to settle on certain lands of the Northern Pacific in Minnesota. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the organization of the movement; on November 4 the committee met and decided to hold meetings and place their proposition before the public. A circular was published about this time that explained the arrangements already made and presented the rules of the colony. Those in charge — William Hurst, Joseph Moses, and Richard Bailey, who were president, treasurer, and secretary respectively — had secured evidence regarding the worth of the land in Minnesota from disinterested parties and had decided that there was no risk involved in the enterprise. They had also decided that it was better to go in a group. A small body of pioneers

<sup>28</sup> Rodgers to Hibbard, April 21, June 13, 1873 (telegram); to Howard Espe, April 21, 1873, in "Yeovil Colony"; Hibbard to Sheppard, May 2, 1873 (copy), in "Foreign Agents," vol. 5.

was to leave early to select the location, a pastor of a Union church was to go along, the railroad company was to furnish a station and a post office, and traffic in liquor was to be absolutely prohibited. Besides these provisions, the circular listed some rather definite rules for the colony: business would be carried on by three officers and a committee of nine; members must have good moral character; they must take an oath to support the ideals of the colony; and they must have sufficient funds for passage, the journey inland, and starting an establishment after arrival.<sup>29</sup> Late in November, in accordance with the plans of the committee, a meeting was held at Dalton, which was attended by over four hundred people. Henderson reported to Sheppard at this time that the movement for the Furness colony appeared to be stronger than that which established the Yeovil colony. Less than a month later seventy-three families had been enrolled; included in this group were farmers, blacksmiths, merchants, and others, each of whom had from fifty to five thousand pounds. There were indications that at least two hundred people would be ready to depart in May, the bulk of them from such northern counties as North Lancashire, Durham, Westmoreland, and Cumberland.<sup>30</sup>

Members of the Furness colony's committee of selection, headed by Bailey, left Liverpool in April, 1873, and reached Brainerd about the first of May. They immediately inspected land at Wadena, Perham, and Audubon, all located on the line of the Northern Pacific between Brainerd and Glyndon, and also looked over the situation nearer the Red River. By June 5 Bailey and Hurst had decided on a tract of land near Wadena, about halfway between Brainerd and Detroit Lake, and they wired for their friends to come immediately. The land set aside included about forty-two thousand acres of

<sup>29</sup> A copy of the circular is in "Foreign Agents," vol. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Henderson to Sheppard, November 30 (copy), December 18, 1872, in "Foreign Agents," vol. 2.

railroad property.<sup>31</sup> A few settlers set out from England for the Furness colony in 1873, but most of those who had planned to join the colony desired to wait until the next season, and April, 1874, found a larger group leaving for Wadena.<sup>32</sup>

These four colonies — Detroit Lake, Glyndon, Yeovil, and Furness — are, of course, only isolated illustrations of the Northern Pacific's activities in the sponsorship of colonies in Minnesota during the years from 1871 to 1873. They are, however, the only colonies described in detail in the railroad's archives. Further evidence of the extensive interest in the colonization work of the company can be gleaned from the correspondence of the land department of the railroad for the years 1871 to 1874. Scores of letters from individuals, colonization societies, missionary societies, soldiers and sailors' organizations, and real estate companies indicate that dozens of other colonies were contemplated at this time.<sup>33</sup>

The success of the Northern Pacific's colonization work can be neither accurately nor adequately measured. A few figures, however, will lend some color. According to a report issued by the company in the fall of 1873 "the progress of settlement and the success of settlers in raising crops are fairly illustrated by the fact that the Northern Pacific Railroad will carry to market of this year's product from one to two thousand carloads of wheat from counties in western Minnesota, whose

<sup>31</sup> Sheppard to Hibbard, April 7, 1873; Hibbard to Sheppard, May 2 (copy), June 6, 1873 (copy), in "Foreign Agents," vols. 3, 5; Bailey to Hibbard, May 5, 1873; Hurst and Bailey to Hibbard, June 5, 1873 (telegram), in "Lands and Colonies," vol. 4.

<sup>32</sup> C. A. Wackerhagen to Bailey, April 24, 1874 (copy), in "Foreign Agents," vol. 5. It is interesting to note that though the settlers brought with them three times the amount of baggage usually allowed, no extra charge was made for transporting it.

<sup>33</sup> These letters are included in the four volumes entitled "Lands and Colonies." They came from people in all parts of the United States and Canada and inquire about the sale of lands and the inducements and commissions offered to colonizers.

residents twenty-four month ago imported their bread-stuffs." Further evidences of progress are the facts that in 1875 five hundred thousand bushels of wheat were raised on lands tributary to the road, that in 1876 fifty thousand acres were planted in wheat, and that before 1877 the total land sales of the company had amounted to nearly a million acres at a total cost to the settlers of over four and a half million dollars."

In crossing Minnesota from Duluth to Moorhead, the Northern Pacific traversed ten counties, several of which were served by other railroad lines. Between the federal censuses of 1870 and 1880, these counties increased in population from barely ten thousand people to more than forty-six thousand in a period when the total population of the state had not even doubled. The four Northern Pacific colonies here studied were located in three counties — Becker, Clay, and Wadena. Becker County, with only three hundred people in 1870, grew to more than five thousand in 1880; Clay County's population increased from ninety-two to nearly six thousand; and Wadena, with only six souls in the former year, attracted well over two thousand before the federal census of 1880 was taken. This expansion of the Northern Pacific's constituency, it should be pointed out, took place in spite of several unusually severe winters, in spite of the annual grasshopper plagues, in spite of the failure of Jay Cooke and Company, and in spite of the serious financial depression that began in 1873.

The prosperity of northern Minnesota and that of the Northern Pacific Railroad were interdependent to a large degree. Long before the construction of the railroad was started in 1870, it was readily apparent that the section of Minnesota it traversed could not be successfully developed without the assistance of transportation service. That it would aid so directly and so materially in the settlement of that section could

<sup>84</sup> *St. Paul Press*, October 15, 1873; Northern Pacific Railroad Company, *Reports*, 1876, p. 12, 13.

not at that time be foreseen. On the other hand, the railroad could not be permanently successful unless agriculture and other industries were prosperous. The construction of the Northern Pacific in Minnesota and the contemporary growth of the section of the state it traversed was pretty much a give-and-take proposition, since each was necessary to the success of the other.

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## THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL MUSEUM<sup>1</sup>

During the winter of 1924-25 I introduced a course combining American and Minnesota history in the Cambridge High School. In presenting it I wished to emphasize the local approach to history. Like many teachers of history I frequently brought into the classroom or encouraged my pupils to bring in articles illustrative of the topic under consideration, especially when the objects were connected with the history of the locality. Such material, however, could be kept for only a few weeks and it often was not available when it might have been most useful. As a result the idea of establishing a small historical museum to preserve such material permanently was developed. The superintendent of public schools was consulted, and he not only approved of the plan but consented to furnish a room. The problem of equipping the room then had to be faced, but this was solved when the senior class of 1925 presented about two hundred dollars with which to purchase cases and other equipment.

We decided at once that, although the museum could be thrown open for a public display now and then,—at least once a year,—in order to justify its existence it must be made to serve the real purposes of education and be used chiefly in classroom activities. Its value for the latter purpose was soon demonstrated when a fourth grade teacher, who was using Buck's *Stories of Early Minnesota* as reading material, desired to stimulate interest in her reading class. When her pupils were reading the chapter on the Sioux Indian we worked up an Indian display for her class, using as many of the objects mentioned in the chapter as it was possible to collect. The

<sup>1</sup> A talk on the founding of this museum and on local history activity in Isanti County was presented by Mr. Troelstrup at the seventy-seventh annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul on January 11, 1926. For an abstract of this talk see *ante*, 7: 43. *Ed.*

teacher expressed her appreciation of the results by saying, "I wish we could have more displays like this." Not long after we were asked if we would set up our Swedish collection for the seventh grade geography class. We tried to reproduce as accurately as possible the household utensils, furniture, and the like that would be found in a typical Swedish home in the old country. In this display was a pair of wooden shoes that had been made by a Swedish resident in Isanti County. Almost immediately a few of the girls in the class protested that something was wrong, and finally one girl piped out that she had never heard of wooden shoes in Sweden. Very soon the whole class was pouring out arguments pro and con. The problem was not solved until the following day, when the pupils presented evidence secured from books and parents. Problem solving, even on a small scale, seems to increase the interest of the child. One wonders if these children did not learn something about the determination of social fact.

The museum was a real help in the Cambridge high school classes. In my course in American and Minnesota history, numerous relics, articles, and manuscripts were brought to class — some for project work, a few to create atmosphere, and others to visualize environment. In studying the American Indian, the class planned a display of Indian relics. Each member was asked to bring in all the articles he could find bearing on the problem. The net result was surprising, to say the least, possibly because Cambridge is located in the Chippewa country. It seemed as though these pupils must have searched every attic, barn, and Indian grave in the county. It became a real problem to find storage room, and we found it necessary to accept only such material as would have classroom value.

Incidentally this bit of exploration brought to light several letters, a diary, and other documentary materials of minor importance, which later were used as the basis for term theses. The local women's club became so interested in the work that



it offered three prizes of five, three, and two dollars for the best papers on Isanti County history. Something like fifty papers were submitted. The best papers were those based on diaries, old letters, newspapers, and interviews with the old settlers of the community. In a few cases these interviews stimulated the old-timers to send in valuable relics and written information on various phases of the county's early history, which had remained practically a closed book up to this time. The best of the papers on local history produced in the class were preserved, but not to gather dust. Succeeding classes made use of many of the papers, and calls came from the neighboring towns where people had heard of our work.

The senior social science class was studying the problem of immigration. The students peeped into grandma's long-forgotten chest in order to locate letters written by relatives or friends in Sweden or other European countries to the immigrants, or sent by loved ones in America to those left behind in the Old World. A few "America letters," in which immigrants told of conditions in the New World, were located. From these the class tried to answer such questions as the following: Why did so and so leave the old country? What were the attractions in Isanti County, Minnesota, and America? What were the newcomers' first impressions here? Did they all feel like one who wrote, "If I had money I would go back"? How did these people influence our community, state, and nation? These questions and many more could be answered by a careful study of published source materials relating to immigration,<sup>2</sup> but most students would regard such book work as drudgery. The interest stimulated by local curiosity would be lacking. I had found some of the books on the subject fascinating, but it is quite another problem to transfer

<sup>2</sup> For example George M. Stephenson, "Typical 'America Letters,'" in the Swedish Historical Society of America, *Year-Books*, 7: 52-98 (St. Paul, 1922); and Theodore C. Blegen, *Ole Rynning's True Account of America* (Norwegian-American Historical Association, *Travel and Description Series*, vol. 1 — Minneapolis, 1926).

that fascination to students. The local material seemed to serve as a stimulant of no mean strength. For example, one girl located a letter dated "*Stockholm den 3 Augusti 1869*," addressed to her grandfather. The problem of translating the letter was solved when another student volunteered his services. On the very next day the class gave evidence of its curiosity to know the contents of that letter. A scholar, perhaps, would not find this letter very different from hundreds of others from Sweden, but the class considered it a "find." It suggested the idea of making a collection of old letters for the museum. A few of the letters aroused interesting class discussions as to the value of such evidence, the ability of the writer, his position, education, and the like. This line of thought developed in a simple way the laws of historical evidence, which are always rather difficult to introduce to high school students.

In a similar way the social science class attacked a problem relating to an old Swedish chest, dated 1766, which had been donated to the museum. In size it was similar to a modern "hope" chest. Strong iron bands supported the corners, ends, and center. Wooden pegs were used for the most part in fastening it together. The key was one of those old iron models, about six inches long and two and a half inches wide at the largest point. Members of the class prepared a list of possible problems relating to the chest. A few of these problems might be mentioned as examples of the thinking processes and activities of the students: Was the chest made in Sweden? How do we know? Is it not possible that the date 1766 was carved at a later date? Why were both wooden and iron nails used? Will this throw any light on the age of the chest? Is it possible to trace its wanderings from the time that it left Sweden to the present? These questions indicate what was going on behind the scenes. A few of the problems were not solved. One boy, more inquisitive than the others in the class, decided to look into "this chest business," as he preferred to call it. He proceeded to investigate

by interviewing the donor. He was given a list of people who might give him more information, and before he had completed the project he had had several interviews. The results of his investigation were made known to the whole group through a report. The material in this report, while not dealing entirely with immigration,—for there was a romance connected with the history of the chest,—revealed considerable information. Interest in this problem was not limited to the social science class. The English department used the question as the basis for a theme. A few of the papers thus prepared were later modified and accepted as history themes.

One of the most valuable features of the museum project was the location and use of a few local sources by the students. People seem to be exceedingly niggardly when it comes to releasing old letters, diaries, business records, and the like. One has to play the part of a beggar with considerable tact and intelligence in order to secure such materials. Old newspapers were given more freely and with fewer strings attached than manuscripts. We were fortunate in locating three bound volumes of the *Isanti County Press*, published from 1874 to 1881, which were used extensively in preparing history theses on the early development of the county. On the basis of this material one student wrote a paper in which he traced the "Early Development of Transportation in Isanti County," from stagecoach days, through the period of the local fights for better roads, to the coming of the railroad; and he told how a decision of the Minnesota supreme court relating to the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad created a "profound sensation in the city" of Cambridge. Another student chose as his topic "Local Interest in National Politics in 1880." He quoted the *Press* of May 13, 1880, as stating that "Isanti County speaks for Blaine. H. F. Barker and Lyman Brown, both strong Blaine men, sent as delegates to state convention. Barker attended National Convention at

Chicago to 'whoop 'er up for Blaine.' " When the Ohio and Indiana elections went Republican, he quoted the *Press* again: "Three cheers and ten tigers for Ohio and Indiana." An interesting example of the use of "dirty" money in politics to purchase an office was brought out by a student who prepared a paper on "Local Politics in 1880." He quoted the *Rush City Post* of November, 1880, as follows: "One of the remarkable features of this Republican government is that a man can spend \$500 to be elected to an office with a salary of \$400 a year. That's what Squire Barker done for the County Attorneyship of Isanti County."<sup>3</sup> The *Isanti County Press* answered the charge by saying that this was a lie, "But if you promise not to lie any more about our worthy Attorney Barker, we will promise not to lie any more or throw any mud at your Attorney Norgood." Stories of Boss Tweed would mean little to pupils in a small Minnesota town, but a report on a county mass meeting which nominated county officers in October, 1878, made clear for them the meaning of boss control. The writer of this report quoted the *Isanti County Press* to the effect that the meeting was "both a mass and a fraud. . . . The fraud consisted in the Nesbitt ring, while pretending to hold a mass meeting irrespective of party, deliberately packing the convention by postal cards and other means addressed to leading Democrats urging them to attend, and by organizing with a Democratic chairman."

The matter of simplification and reduction of taxes has been for some time an important and interesting problem to those who "foot the bill." But to high school boys and girls taxes usually mean little or nothing. What can be done to create interest and drive out hibernating curiosity on this subject? In my class this problem was solved in part at least by using local sources. One member of the class, who prepared a paper on "Local Attitudes on Taxation in 1878 and 1927," quoted the following letter from the *Press* of August 1, 1878:

<sup>3</sup> Quoted by the *Isanti County Press*, November 25, 1880.

EDITOR ISANTI PRESS,

I sea in your last paiper the comisoners have abaited the ackstra kost and interest on the back tackses. Now I just tell you, I want som money back too. I pad mi tackses as soon as I cud, so as to not to hav now given as to understand that longer wi wate the better it is for us and the cheeper it will be. Now I shall just remember this in the coming times, and I bet thee all do the sam. I sea if we wate long enuff wi wont have to pai at all. . . . For being a good paier I will sine myself.

A POOR OLD PHOOL

The editor remarked that this letter was representative of public opinion in 1878. Obviously, the writer was a better taxpayer than a letter-writer.

One student took as his subject for investigation "Early Educational Problems." His paper was exceedingly long, but it incorporated interesting and valuable material. For instance, the type of school that might have been found in Isanti County in pioneer days is revealed in the following quotation from an "Inventory report to the County Superintendent of Schools" published in the *Press* of October 27, 1876:

Number of visits from Director? None. Clerk? One. Treasurer? None. Co. Supt.? One. Other persons? None. Has the schoolhouse been kept in general repair? No. Has the school room been properly supplied? No. How is it ventilated? By cracks in the floor. Have the windows blinds, curtains or neither? Neither. How many blackboards? One. Condition? Bad. What wall maps? None. Charts? Not any. Globe? None. Dictionary? None.

The school house would make a good jail, but for the reason that the persons might get through the cracks.

The last statement was attached to the inventory presumably by the teacher. She indicated that she had been in only one fight, but that she was arrested for "Assault and battery." She was concerned in "two lawsuits" during the brief term. What student would not be interested in education if given the opportunity to use live sources such as these?

Through the use of material collected for the museum the students obtained a feeling for sources that is so essential

for a just appreciation of the significance of local history. Just as a good teacher in the science laboratory desires to impress upon his pupils the process rather than the mere knowledge of an experiment, so the teacher of history sends his student to the sources to learn the art of historical mindedness. Local history is his laboratory. The museum proved valuable in stimulating a fundamental and abiding interest in history, which became something more than dates, terms, and dry books. The students peeped at history in the making through letters, diaries, deeds, newspapers, and the like; they lived with the pioneer in his political, religious, industrial, and social activities. They listened to tales of "wild land speculations" in 1876, when their city was "totally abandoned and the only visible sign of it . . . was the beautiful map recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds." *Sic transit gloria mundi*. Their study of religious development took them to the meetings conducted by pioneer circuit riders, where they witnessed "many wonderful things — four different skulls of John the Baptist, one skull of Simon Peter." These riders had some difficulties in Cambridge, for, according to the *Press* of January 21, 1875, the sheriff threw a favorite missionary in jail for "breaking in the schoolhouse . . . and then chopped up the Bible." Politically, the students participated in local, state, and national elections. They attended the "Big Republican Rally" of October 31, 1878, at the Isanti County court house, where the air was filled with slogans like "Rally around the flag boys, rally once again," "Don't go back on the party that gave us 160 acres of land," "Secure your staterooms in Nesbitt's Ark which will positively leave on time Wednesday morning." In a broad sense it may be said that the possibilities for correlating the museum collections with the work of departments other than history and the grades is as broad as the directing mind.

It is hoped that this brief review of what has been accomplished with the aid of a school museum will be of value to

teachers who really desire to improve their classes — who dare to introduce “something different.” While it is not claimed that there is anything new in this method, as there have been several pioneers in the field, it is practically certain that few teachers are using such methods today. It might be pointed out finally, that the one regret of those who have tried the museum idea is that they did not earlier put into use this vital and important educational aid.

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## MINNESOTA AS SEEN BY TRAVELERS

### A DANISH VISITOR OF THE SEVENTIES. I

Robert Watt, author, journalist, traveler, and theater director, was born near Aarhus, Denmark, in 1837. At the age of twenty he went to Australia, where he engaged in various occupations, living most of the time in Melbourne. He returned to Denmark in 1861 and for a time wrote for the *Illustreret tidende*; later he became traveling correspondent for *Dagbladet*. In 1866 he founded in Copenhagen the newspaper *Figaro*, which in 1868 changed its title to *Dagens nyheder* but continued under Watt's editorship until 1871.

As a traveling correspondent Watt visited France, Russia, and other countries of Europe; Egypt; and finally, in 1871, America. After his return to Denmark he continued his literary work and, among other things, made numerous translations into Danish, especially from Thackeray, Bret Harte, Mark Twain, and Edgar Allan Poe. From 1876 to 1884 he was director of the *Folketeatret* of Copenhagen. During this period he translated for his theater a number of French plays. In the early nineties he was director of the *Kasino*. He spent the last few years of his life at Tivoli, where he died in 1894.<sup>1</sup>

Much of the material that appeared originally in the newspapers that Watt represented as a traveling correspondent was published later in a series of books, which were issued from 1865 to 1873. The book from which the following extracts have been taken appeared under the title *Fra det fjerne vesten* in 1872 and contains the reports of his travels in America in 1871. There was no indication that this book was to form part of a set; but the next year volumes two and three appeared with the general title *Hinsides Atlanterhavet*, recognizing *Fra*

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed sketch of Watt see *Dansk Biografisk Haandleksikon*, 3: 663 (Copenhagen, 1920-26).

*det fjerne vesten* as volume one of the set. Volume two had the subtitle *Vandringer i New York*, and volume three, *Religiøse sekter*.

The Danes of this period were interested in America and they must have been pleased to receive first-hand information about the New World from one of their own race. There were at this time many and varied reports current in Denmark as well as in other countries of Europe concerning America. Many of Watt's fellow citizens had friends and relatives in the new land and were anxious to learn something of conditions there; and others, doubtless, were contemplating migration. Reports must have been conflicting. Encouraging reports probably were received with acclaim.

Watt seems to have been well equipped for the business of interpreting the New World to the Old. He had traveled a great deal and knew the ways of the world. He could speak the English language. His writing had descriptive qualities; he had imagination and a sense of humor; and his statements of fact were usually accurate, though he may have been too credulous and have painted the West in too rosy a hue. His own observations are given with sympathy and understanding and with unfailing good humor.

The early chapters of the volume describe Watt's journey to Liverpool, Quebec, Montreal, Ontario, Niagara Falls, and Chicago. Then follow reports of trips out from Chicago into the north woods and the region of Lake Superior. A chapter is given to the great fire in Chicago, which the author witnessed. In the portion herewith translated he describes his trip up the Mississippi to Minnesota and his impressions of St. Paul; additional chapters, in which he tells of his experiences in other parts of the state, will appear in future numbers of the magazine.

In his Danish text Watt uses certain English expressions, which he italicizes; these have been incorporated into the translation in the exact form that he uses in the original. Other

distinctly American expressions — for example, half-breed — have been translated into Danish and inclosed in quotation marks; in such cases these marks have been retained in the translation.

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

[Robert Watt, *Fra det fjerne vesten. Skildringer fra Amerika*, 207-232  
(Copenhagen, 1872) — Translation]

#### XVII TO MINNESOTA

##### St. Paul, Minnesota.

From Milwaukee to St. Paul is not a short run. I shall not speak of the months that it took the venturesome French missionaries to penetrate to the Mississippi Valley in the Northwest from their pioneer homes on the Canadian border a couple of hundred years ago; but, even now, when a person speeds over the rails almost uninterruptedly at the rate that an American express train attains, it takes nearly twenty-four hours to cross from the western shore of Lake Michigan to the capital of Minnesota — one of the newest and perhaps most interesting states in the Union.

About a hundred years after Father Hennepin, a Frenchman, had visited this place, Jonathan Carver, an American merchant, tried his luck here among the Indian tribes. He reached as far as the place where St. Paul now stands and there, on his own account, he concluded a treaty with the Nadowessie [*Sioux*] Indians, by the terms of which they ceded to him a tract of land. But the United States government took no heed of this treaty, so that he received as little profit from his audacity as his French predecessors had.<sup>2</sup> Minnesota continued to lie unoccupied, as a little-known Indian hunting ground. Not until 1837 did the government conclude a treaty with the Sioux Indians, and then the

<sup>2</sup> Carver visited the Minnesota region in 1766 and 1767, spent the winter months among the Sioux of the Minnesota Valley, and was alleged to have received a large grant of land from these Indians. See William W. Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 1: 53-64 (St. Paul, 1921).

land was opened to any pioneers who had the courage and manly fortitude to settle there.<sup>3</sup> But many years passed before immigration really began, and the history of Minnesota — named for a large and magnificent river (the name means “sky-tinted water” in the language of the Dakota Indians) which drains a considerable portion of the state — can not, as a civilized commonwealth, be said to date back more than twenty years.

This history, however, characterized by rapid progress, is most interesting and striking in spite of its brevity. In later years the cultivated area has been increased by more than three hundred per cent and the value of the state's products almost as much. In 1850 there were in all of Minnesota only a little more than five thousand inhabitants, and now there are probably about five hundred thousand scattered about the productive prairies and in the picturesque valleys with their numerous streams and lakes.<sup>4</sup> Large cities now tower on the banks of the Mississippi, and its waters furnish power for many factories. Where formerly the oxcart labored on very slowly, the railway trains now speed across country for hundreds of miles, and all this progress has taken place in the last few years. Thus has been demonstrated fully what unusual resources the young state possesses and what advantages it can offer anyone who, with an honest determination to make his way, seeks his home there. Minnesota is obviously destined to play a considerable part in the future history of America. The state is located midway between Hudson Bay and the Gulf of Mexico and midway between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Its capital rises above the Mississippi where this stream begins to be navigable and thereby connects with the South. Toward the north the *Red River* stretches like a broad highway. Toward the east commerce goes through Lake Superior and the

<sup>3</sup> Treaties were concluded in 1837 with both the Sioux and the Chippewa, but at this time the Indians ceded to the United States only the section of land between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. Much of the rest of Minnesota was opened to settlement by the treaties of 1851. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 1: 159, and map facing p. 324.

<sup>4</sup> According to the United States census the population of Minnesota was 6,077 in 1850 and 439,706 in 1870.

St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean. And when the Northern Pacific Railway, which now has been started, is ready, the state will have easy communication with the territories to the west as far as the Pacific Ocean and thence with all the transoceanic ports in that direction. "When this road is completed," people aver, "Duluth, our future great trade center on Lake Superior, will be only a five days' journey from the Pacific ocean, twenty days' journey from Canton, China, and only a journey of fifteen days from Liverpool!"

With these things in mind, American statesmen have foretold for Minnesota and her continuously growing cities a brilliant future. In a speech that Seward delivered in St. Paul a few years ago he said among other things: "I now believe that the last seat of power on this great continent will be found somewhere within a radius not very far from the very spot where I stand, at the head of navigation on the Mississippi river."<sup>5</sup> And another politician, Thaddeus Stevens, said concerning Duluth: "Here, where navigation on Lake Superior ends, will sometime arise one of the greatest, if not the greatest, commercial center in America."<sup>6</sup> A beginning has been made, and in a very promising way, as Duluth a year ago consisted of only a lone log cabin and now numbers over four thousand inhabitants. The population is increasing daily and these people are eagerly engaged in building up this coming trade center in a worthy manner.

Settlers stream into Minnesota from all directions, not only from the Old World but from other states in America as well, and the local government has done everything to make access easy to the immense areas that are as yet uncultivated. Besides the millions of acres of land that are already in private hands, or those that the state has reserved for schools, railroads, and the

<sup>5</sup> A longer extract, including this statement, from William H. Seward's speech, which was delivered on September 18, 1860, is quoted by Theodore C. Blegen in his account of "Campaigning with Seward in 1860," *ante*, 8: 153. For the full text see the *Daily Times* (St. Paul) for September 22, 1860.

<sup>6</sup> Stevens expressed an idea similar to this in a speech on the Northern Pacific land grants before the national House on April 27, 1866. *Congressional Globe*, 39 Congress, 1 session, p. 2245.

like, there remain almost twenty-four million acres of land, or about half the area of Minnesota, awaiting buyers. In various parts of the state are government offices where contracts with settlers are closed, and the terms are so liberal that it requires only a small capital to be able to secure a farm of suitable size. In the northern part of the state, where the Height of Land is to be found, the country is said to be rich in metals and timber (fir) and less suitable for agriculture. The topography of Minnesota as a whole, however, can best be described as a rolling prairie with soil that is a dark, calcareous loam, which experience has shown to be very suitable for cultivation. The entire state has an abundant water supply with innumerable streams and lakes, and near these is generally found a wealth of trees from oak to fir. Maple abounds wherever trees grow near water.

The inviting appearance of Minnesota is anticipated even on a journey thither. The land along the railway, which is given to the company by the state in order that like projects might be encouraged and all interests thereby promoted, has been parceled out and is cultivated along almost the entire route and presents the aspect of immense fields. The grain had lately been cut. Neat, white-painted houses, surrounded by barns and grain stacks, could be seen in an almost unbroken line. Cattle grazed within inclosures or herded along the small water courses. Large tracts were plowed and ready for seed. They will be covered with snow in a half dozen weeks. Only occasionally appeared trees and brush; and one received the impression that in most places the owners could, without hindrance, put the plow in the ground and at once turn the land into a source of income. At one time all this land could have been purchased from the government for four or five rix-dollars an acre, but it is now worth about fifty rix-dollars, according to the statement of a fellow traveler.<sup>7</sup> My informant, in spite of his youth, was an old settler in Minnesota; but in a state so new, where rapid changes take place, it does not mean much to be among the oldest. Scarcely ten years ago he and his companions fought Indians in the western districts, and now a person actually has to hunt in order to find a redskin in the state. In 1862 the government took vigorous action, and the hostile

<sup>7</sup> The *riksdaler* was worth about twenty-six and a half cents.

tribe, which with fire and sword had undertaken to eject the pioneers, was driven out, together with the peaceful Winnebago, and assigned a tract of land on the Missouri River, where they subsequently could disport themselves. If one meets with a small group of the redskins now at some railway station or on some excursion to any of the beauty spots of which Minnesota has such a wealth, he may be fairly certain that they belong to the Chippewa tribe of Indians so well distributed in the northwestern districts, with whose harmless representatives I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted at the Menomonee River. They have a couple of thousand square miles of land here that they still can call their own, but it is not worth very much.\* As compensation for ceded land they receive annually from the United States government a certain amount of ammunition for hunting, woolen blankets, tea, and similar articles.

One follows with pleasure the course of his travels long before he comes within the boundaries of Minnesota. Unfortunately the twenty-four hours continuous ride necessitated that a part of the beginning of my journey occurred at a time when the land looks like a single poured substance, here and there illuminated by a little fire in the timber or ornamented with red and green lanterns as one approaches a stopping-place where the rails are so interwoven that one begins to comprehend the roving minds of the Barbox Brothers as Dickens has pictured them in "Mugby Junction." Among the places that I passed through was the capital of Wisconsin, famous for its beautiful situation on five lakes; but I could begin to observe the region only when we approached the boundaries of that state.

It was early morning and a grey fog was all that I saw when I first went out on the platform of the car. But the sun soon gained the mastery and there now followed a wonderfully beautiful sunrise such as one may witness in the fall of the year in western America. All growing things, from the smallest straws to the largest trees, seemed intent on arraying themselves in gorgeous,

\* Watt relates the story of his meeting with a group of Chippewa "in the backwoods" of Wisconsin in *Fra det fjerne vesten*, 149. The Chippewa lands in Minnesota in 1871 were much more extensive and valuable than the author indicates. Indian Office, *Reports*, 1871, p. 588, 684.



festive garb in advance of their approaching denudation. The leaves shone like gold in the scarlet and green bushes, and the distant hills, up which the fog was slowly climbing, were violet. When daylight shone clear on the scene we were steaming across a little prairie at the edge of the Mississippi River. The French precursors had named it *Prairie du Chien* for the coming civilization. But they have not even been able to retain the name of the land which, with great danger, they were the first to explore, for, even though the name is thus written, it is pronounced by all Americans "Prairie du Schihn," and a person would not be understood if he were to pronounce it in any other way. *Prairie du Chien* is not very large — only half a [Danish] mile long and about half as wide<sup>o</sup> — but on this farthest boundary of Wisconsin there already has been established a little village, and, since the trains have to stop here before they proceed, the place appears rather lively.

In the winter there is a bridge [*of ice*] across the Mississippi from *Prairie du Chien* to the state of Iowa, whose territory begins on the opposite shore, but as the season was not far enough advanced we shipped across on a little ferry propelled by steam and went a long way around some islands that were overgrown with brush, in order to make connections with the railway. Reddish hills overgrown with a sort of heather, where the white limestone here and there shines through, rise opposite the above mentioned prairie. A little town, McGregor, named after one of the first colonists in these distant regions, has concealed itself among these hills, and from it continues the Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad through Iowa's fertile plains, where the fields of one farm adjoin those of another, until it reaches the boundaries of Minnesota at the little town of Le Roy.

Nowhere is an acquaintance made with such readiness as on a journey, and occasionally a person makes such a one as may be both useful and pleasant. I was in lively conversation with the above mentioned Minnesota man before we had crossed the Mississippi.

<sup>o</sup> In giving distances the author uses throughout the Danish mile, which is equal to four and one-fifth English miles.



"Will you press down on that spring?" was the introduction from his side, as he tried in vain to turn the key in the lock of of a traveling bag. The common endeavor was crowned with success, and he brought to light a flask which he had taken along for the journey.

"*Will you have a drink?*" was his next approach. Then we drank together and were friends for the day.

"You see," he explained, as a sort of excuse for having brought a bottle and some food, "we are now coming into a newly settled country and in all probability will get nothing to eat all day. The railroad is only a little more than four years old; and, although a great many so-called towns have grown up along the line, it is doubtful if we shall stop any place except along some wooden sheds."

He was mistaken, however, for at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the little station of Owatonna, a stop of twenty minutes was announced. An immense gong outside a low wooden building (which at a hurried glance one might have mistaken for a barn) announced that here one could appease his hunger. A person must never judge a dog by the hair, and that was demonstrated here also, for inside the simple, red-painted walls were tables with shining white table cloths; a half dozen ladies of the white-faced race in uniforms of white aprons waited behind these; and the hungry traveler, who had had nothing since daybreak, could, to his heart's content, pounce upon trout from the nearest lake, prairie chicken, corn cakes, young buffalo steak, pumpkin pie, grapes, and whatever else the country provided, together with dishes with which Europeans are more familiar.

My American friend was proud of this service in the distant West.

"Well, they won't believe that in Chicago or the other eastern cities," he remarked, speaking of that city, which New Yorkers consider situated on the boundaries of civilization, as though it were located in the middle of Europe.

"Are you traveling homeward?" he inquired later, as we sped across the prairies.

"No, decidedly away from home."

"To look for land in Minnesota?"

"Yes, in a way."

"Perhaps to hunt or fish? We have fine *Sport*. In the timber and on the prairies you can shoot deer, bear, fox, wolf, badger, and muskrat, and if you go far west you may be lucky enough to meet with buffalo. The rivers and lakes teem with pike, perch, and trout. If you simply wish to enjoy nature you could not have chosen a better trip, for it will be hard to find a state that offers what Minnesota does in that respect. You must be sure to see our waterfalls and our beautiful lakes."

He almost lost his breath in his enthusiasm in speaking of his new home, the environs of which he had explored thoroughly before he had bought land and located.

I did not like to lose his company for the simple reason that, in a country that has no printed travelers' guides for its most remote regions, it was pleasant to have such a living Baedeker to consult; and, moreover, he talked well, without elegant phrases or pseudo-learned expressions, but just as any quick, naturally gifted man would express himself who has frequented the great woods and the out-stretched prairies and who has been reared in the practical school of life. He told me about the harvest — how the wheat that was raised in Minnesota until about a dozen years ago was hardly sufficient for the small population, whereas the value of the various grains that have been raised since is estimated at about sixty millions of dollars; how the potato yield amounted to three hundred bushels to the acre; about cattle raising and wool production; and about the newly discovered coal mines, the copper and iron ores near Lake Superior, and the great quantities of building stone, which in some places made it possible to pay the expense of digging a cellar by selling and using the stone quarried in the process.

"But it takes labor to get all these sources of wealth to flow," he said as he slammed his tanned and calloused hands together. "Without working, and working like a horse (and sometimes the horse is poorly fed in the bargain) nothing is accomplished here in the West, and presumably nowhere else either. At first a person must drudge and sweat, but later he can also see improvement."

He reminded me strikingly of my Canadian friend who had dilated upon the attractions of Ontario, for he made this vigorous little speech with almost the same expression as the latter had used.<sup>10</sup> And I have noticed here in America that the many people with whom I have come in contact speak of their homes, usually lately chosen, with a peculiar enthusiasm as soon as their efforts are crowned with a little success. One thing they all agree upon—that the person who thinks he can get along in America better than elsewhere without work will come to grief.

When I arrived in Mendota I had ridden exactly one hundred Danish miles since I left Milwaukee. There the railroad divides, one track going to the as yet little-known Winona; another to St. Paul's steady rival, Minneapolis, which is situated a short distance up the Mississippi River; and a third to St. Paul. It was evening again, but the expected cold had not come. In spite of the fact that Minnesota adjoins the Hudson Bay's territory and that it now approaches the end of the month of October, we had traveled all day with doors and windows open in the car and the wraps we had brought along packed away. The extreme dry cold does not come until the close of the year, and the snow usually remains until some time in March. Darkness prevented us from enjoying the view from Mendota. The town is said to be very much spread out and very beautiful. It lies a short distance from the mouth of the Minnesota River; but in spite of its generally favorable location, for one of those inexplicable reasons that one so often meets with here, it has not been able to attain prosperity in the manner of Minneapolis and St. Paul. We failed to see the rolling prairies, the Minnesota Valley, the picturesque *Lake Harriet*, and the town of St. Anthony in the distance. But soon numerous lights greeted us from the heights. It was St. Paul that stretched itself on the hilly ground on the east side of the Mississippi River and that, at a quick glance, gave one the impression of a mighty city with thousands of inhabitants, for the houses are so scattered on top of the white limestone bluffs that their appearance is deceptive. The railroad followed the river so closely that it appeared that in case of accident we would roll

<sup>10</sup> Watt tells of his conversation with this Canadian in *Fra det fjerne vesten*, 56-62.

directly into it, and on the other side only the naked wall of rock was visible.

The steam whistle now echoed between the hills, and our temporary destination was reached.

#### XVIII IMMINIJASKA, THE WHITE ROCK

St. Paul, Minnesota.

The hotel in which I live, and which bears the name of *The Metropolitan*, is an imposing stone building with pillars, verandas, balconies, and the entire extravagant outfit that a large American hotel deems necessary in order to consider itself *first class*. There are, however, many other hotels. This one is located on Third Street and is situated on one of the highest points of the city. When I open my window I have a broad view of the numerous houses of St. Paul, which display all the colors and vary considerably as to solidity. These houses are arranged in irregular lines, on account of the changing terrain, but this very thing appeals to the eye. And the "Father of Waters," which the Indians mean when they say Mississippi, stretches itself lazily among a number of small islands beyond the houses and increases the effect of the picturesque view before me—a picture that has as its background a considerable portion of the Mississippi Valley and as its frame the dim heights that inclose the valley.

Thus it was that I first saw St. Paul, and I found that the city had an unusually beautiful location. But I wished to see the picture from another angle and for that purpose I walked one day down the hilly Third Street, turned to the right, and, after having been stopped by a man who thought I intended to cheat him out of the toll that was his due, continued across what appeared to me to be an endless wooden bridge—once again hailed by Cerberus for smoking a cigar—which stretches across from the limestone bluffs on the east side of the river, across houses, river, and islands, down to the level ground on the west side. When I turned toward the city from this point I had to admit that St. Paul has the most picturesque location of any city I had seen in the United States, although Quebec unquestionably will take the prize when it comes to what I have seen in America.

The city appears to be situated on three immense terraces. Nearest the river is a narrow level bank where a few low houses are built and where the railroad passes through. Here also a little stream purls into the Mississippi. Then the land rises, in some places perpendicularly, about a hundred feet, presenting to view a chalky white wall composed of soft stone blocks in which wind and weather have here and there drawn grotesque figures. Due to its appearance the place was called by the Dakota Indians *Imminijaska*, or the White Rock. On the plain that stretches back from the top of this wall the real city is located. The third terrace is formed by the dark hills that rise in the form of an amphitheater from the plain, and on these are located a few houses and villas. The geology of the site on which the city is built varies so strikingly that it must attract the attention of everyone. Certain quarters are built on a kind of limestone that is soft when it is quarried but soon hardens by contact with the air, and there the buildings are constructed, as a rule, from this stone.

As I sit looking at the city during the warm noon hour, it appears to lie in a stupor. Everything is still. Not even the waters of the Mississippi emit any sound, but move quietly in the clear sunlight. From the Height of Land in the far northern part of Minnesota, which divides the waters that flow into the Gulf of Mexico from those that flow into Hudson Bay, the "Father of Waters" moves slowly on. Then the ancient of days gradually gathers strength, at times advancing stealthily, at times angrily forcing its way through numerous dams and small lakes, and emerges from Lake Itasca as a fairly considerable stream.<sup>11</sup> But not until it has made a turn to the north through Lake Winnipeg [*Winnebagoishish*] and again turned southward is the Mississippi dignified with the name river. From then on it gathers strength, widens greatly, rushes and foams, and before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico it has traversed a distance of more than 750 [*Danish*] miles from its source.

<sup>11</sup> Lake Itasca is generally looked upon as the source of the Mississippi, thought it is fed by a number of small streams not nearly so substantial in size as Watt's statement would lead the reader to believe.

The river god has seen many changes, and not the least have taken place during recent years. There is, for instance, St. Paul, a neat and attractive city with hotels, theaters, large stores, and the Capitol. There the state's chosen men have decided the destiny of the redskins<sup>12</sup>—the free sons of these woods and prairies who earlier held their meetings at the White Rock and did not dream that the pale faces so soon should come to send them out of the land where rest the bones of their great chiefs. But the pale faces became too numerous for them. In St. Paul alone they now number twenty thousand, although it is not long since only one white man lived where Minnesota's capital is located. In 1840 the oldest settler, who still lives there, built his log house on the White Rock, and the same year a Catholic missionary erected there a simple board church, which he called St. Paul.<sup>13</sup> Only another half hundred pioneers arrived within the next eight years. But the population increased from that time on by the thousands, and, instead of the French missionary's little chapel, there may now be seen a score of beautiful churches.

From the broad plain where I am sitting there rises a series of hills overgrown with thin brush, and from these the great western prairies extend for thousands of miles toward the interior. Not far from where the incline toward the river begins, there are a great number of Indian graves. In these the Chippewa and the Dakota, or Sioux, warriors dwell more peaceably together than they ever did while alive.<sup>14</sup> There exists enmity between these tribes, a sort of feud still unsettled, that goes back in time so far that not even the wisest among the warriors are able to

<sup>12</sup> As the author visited Minnesota shortly after the Sioux War and knew that the state officials had taken an active part in suppressing the outbreak, he probably was under the impression that the state legislature had more to do with determining the fate of the Indians than was actually the case.

<sup>13</sup> Watt probably had Benjamin Gervais in mind when he referred to St. Paul's "oldest settler." The missionary was Father Lucian Galtier, who built the Chapel of St. Paul in 1841. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 1: 223; J. Fletcher Williams, *A History of the City of Saint Paul and of the County of Ramsey*, 69 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 4).

<sup>14</sup> The Indian mounds at Dayton's Bluff, St. Paul, are Sioux graves, not common graves of Sioux and Chippewa as indicated by Watt.

explain the real reason for the bitter animosities. The tribes have had many meetings for the purpose of establishing peace; but when the pipe of peace has gone the round in the gathering and a sufficient quantity of the favorite *kin-ne-kin-nick*\* has been smoked, the chiefs have scarcely had time to utter the words "I have spoken," before the entire assembly has been in a fight. For example the Chippewa and Dakota Indians met a half score of years ago opposite the White Rock in order to conclude perpetual peace. The speeches, with their peculiar colorful expressions, had been entirely concluded when a Chippewa set out across the river on a log. One of the Sioux could not resist the temptation and he raised his gun to his chin and shot the Chippewa. He earned the right to stick one more eagle's feather in his hair; but quick as lightning the tribes fell to, the guns popped, the tomahawks waved, and, as reported to me by an eye-witness of this murderous fight, the graves were filled with "braves" — the common designation of the Indians for their warriors.<sup>15</sup>

But a bloodier conflict took place some years later, when the tribes, cheated by private traders who were conniving with a lot of government officials, rose against the whites. By ascending to the highest elevations, I can see at the horizon two of the best-known battle fields of the terrible struggles of 1862 and 1863.<sup>16</sup> Approximately eight hundred pioneers, including about three hundred of our northern countrymen, lost their lives,<sup>17</sup> generally after the most horrible tortures, especially when the iso-

\* A mixture of tobacco, bark, and leaves which the Indians themselves prepare. [Author's note]

<sup>15</sup> The author may here be giving a confused account of a battle between the Sioux and the Chippewa that took place on the streets of St. Paul in 1853, or of the battle of Kaposia, fought in 1842. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 1: 180; Williams, *Saint Paul*, 336.

<sup>16</sup> This is obviously an error, as none of the battles of the Sioux War took place so close to St. Paul as is here indicated. See maps in Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 268, 392 (St. Paul, 1924).

<sup>17</sup> No official census of Sioux War casualties was taken at the time, but recent investigations show that the number killed in the conflict was about five hundred. Information showing how many of these were Scandinavians does not seem to be available. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 392; Marion P. Satterlee, *A Detailed Account of the Massacre by the Dakota Indians of Minnesota in 1862*, 124 (Minneapolis, 1923).



lated pioneer cabins on the prairies or at the edges of the woods were surprised by the Indians. The shameful swindles and petty persecutions of brutal traders, and the fact that due to the Civil War the government had delayed the payments for land cessions, caused the Indians to be discontented in the highest degree.

Thousands of them were tormented by hunger while they awaited the promised compensation for the glorious hunting grounds from which the whites had driven the game, and they were scoffed at by the traders to whom government officers paid the money belonging to the Indians whenever those robbers, protected by law, presented their demands for the payment of debts. Finally the old patient chiefs were no longer able to restrain the wrath of their warriors, which had smouldered for many years and which finally erupted in so terrific a flame that Minnesota, eight years ago, consisted, so to speak, of one single, blood-drenched battle field. The wild warriors of the Dakota tribe swept across the state from the *Red River* on the western border until their camp fires and their waving aigrettes were visible but a few miles from St. Paul, while the whites who had not been murdered or taken prisoners were driven ahead of the terrible enemies.<sup>18</sup> And other tribes, united by a common hatred of the whites and common grievances, hurried to the assistance of the Sioux "braves." In command of all of them was "Little Crow," a cultured Indian who spoke both French and English. With him was associated the terrible "Cut Nose," who with his own tomahawk had killed seventeen women and children in an immigrant wagon on the prairies while a companion held the horses; the sly *Ptan-doo-tah*, or "Red Otter," the juggler and "medicine man," whom the white women who were taken prisoners later accused of rape; the much-feared hunter *Maza-bom-do*,

<sup>18</sup> Watt evidently got the impression that the Sioux approached close to St. Paul from reading a statement in Isaac V. D. Heard's *History of the Sioux War and Massacres of 1862 and 1863*, 300 (New York, 1864). That author relates that during the spring and summer of 1863 small bands of Indians who returned to Minnesota to continue the depredations became "so bold . . . that they lighted their camp-fires within twelve miles of St. Paul." In *Fra det fjerne vesten*, 273, Watt states that much of the information on the Sioux War in his narrative was taken from Heard.



or "Iron Blower"; the mighty fighters "The Singer," "Red Leaf," "White Bear," and a great number of other chiefs.<sup>19</sup> Several of these joined the furious young warriors reluctantly, and they did so only because they were accused by the others of having been bribed by the whites.

If the Indians had been able to maintain peace among themselves things might have looked gloomy for the whites even unto this day, but they were soon split up into smaller bands, and the "peace party" gradually gained the ascendancy. Many a conspicuous deed of heroism was done by both sides during these guerilla fights, and many a noble trait of the Indians was exhibited toward the prisoners or fugitive whites; but there were many cases of gruesome revenge. The Cooper Indians have not died out. A person may not expect to meet them on the streets of New York; he must journey out to the great western prairies in order to see them or hear of their exploits from themselves or from their few steadfast friends or many bitter enemies among the whites. Thus there is an old *Squaw* to whom several white people owe their lives. "*Gamle Bet*," [*Old Bets*] is now over a hundred years old, but she still can walk from her near-by cabin to St. Paul, where all know her and remember gratefully how nobly and self-sacrificingly she acted toward the captive women and children who were trailed along during the afore-said struggles by her tribe, the terrible Sioux Indians. It was due to her in part that the camp in which the prisoners were kept finally surrendered unconditionally; and with this event ended in reality the great Indian campaigns in Minnesota.<sup>20</sup> A short time thereafter twenty-seven red chiefs and warriors were hanged at one time in the town of Mankato, after they, with the greatest composure, had smoked their pipes and joined in the

<sup>19</sup> Here again Watt has drawn on Heard, who gives sketches of most of these Indians in his *Sioux War*, 279-282. For an accurate and detailed account of the outbreak see Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 109-242.

<sup>20</sup> A sketch of Old Bets, who was a well-known character in St. Paul until her death in 1873, appears in Williams, *Saint Paul*, 252-254. She was said to have "been kind to the captives" taken by the Indians during the Sioux War and to have been present at Camp Release when they were turned over to Sibley on September 26, 1862, according to Heard, *Sioux War*, 185.

death song.<sup>21</sup> "Little Crow" and a couple of hundred warriors would not surrender, but retreated to "Devil's Lake" farther toward the west, determined to die fighting. Not until 1863 was a pioneer successful in shooting the famous chieftain while he, forsaken by all but his nearest relatives, wandered about in the neighborhood of a settlement. He was endeavoring to procure horses in order to withdraw into the districts that had not yet been acquired by the whites in the territory of Dakota, on the other side of Red River. I have seen his scalp in St. Paul; for the white warriors practiced scalping during the aforesaid struggles as vigorously as the reds, and this sort of barbarism is still practiced on the frontiers of territories that are little settled. Indeed it is only a few years ago since the highest commanding military officer in Minnesota offered a prize for every Indian scalp that was brought to him.<sup>22</sup>

As previously stated, Minnesota has been free from hostile tribes since 1863. By heroic struggles the Sioux Indians were driven to a "Reservation" on the Missouri River, and, with the exception of "Old Bet," it is difficult to find in the neighborhood of the White Rock other Indians than the peaceful Chipewa. On the other hand if one travels to the farthest border of the state toward the west, one will meet occasional wandering Indians of the Dakota tribe. But, as stated, the wars have ceased in Minnesota, and the unfortunate tribes, who as prisoners were transported to the Missouri River by the hundreds, eke out a terrible existence in a barren region where it hardly ever rains, where game is scarce, and where the half-poisoned water (*alkaline water*) in the lakes and streams brings on illness and death.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Thirty-eight Indians and half-breeds were hanged at Mankato on December 27, 1862. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 210.

<sup>22</sup> Little Crow was shot about six miles north of Hutchinson on July 3, 1863, by Nathan and Chauncy Lampson. A bounty was placed on Sioux scalps brought to the adjutant general's office during the summer and fall of 1863. See Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 283-286, 289. Watt must have seen Little Crow's scalp in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, for it was placed there in 1868.

<sup>23</sup> For the story of the removal of the Sioux from Minnesota see Folwell, *Minnesota*, 2: 258-264.

The white population had become so embittered on account of the outrages perpetrated by the Indians that it demanded that all tribes whose warriors had taken part in the conflict should be sent out of the state; and thus many a good Indian, who in the hour of danger had acted as a protector of the whites, had to share the woeful fate of his tribe and exchange the country that he loved for an earthly hell on the Missouri River. Meanwhile the plows of the pioneers are transforming the prairies into wheat fields, and prosperity is spreading over the richly endowed state of Minnesota.

A bent form, dressed fantastically, makes her way across the long bridge and disappears over the hills behind me, after having stopped for a moment to examine the city on the White Rock. It is "Old Bet," called by the Indians *Aseyamanka-win*, or the Berry Picker, a pitiful remnant of the once mighty Dakota tribe. She stops, while her rags play in the wind, and peers toward the capital of Minnesota, which she in a special way assisted in giving back to the "pale faces" who have brought death and destruction to her race.



## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*In Quest of the Western Ocean.* By NELLIS M. CROUSE, PH.D.  
(New York, William Morrow and Company, 1928. ix,  
480 p. Maps. \$6.50.)

There is today a marked tendency in the field of historical writing to present material that has long been available in new combinations or patterns. Dr. Crouse's volume reflects this tendency to a certain degree and his conception of his task may best be stated in his own words. He says that it is his purpose "to trace the work carried on by explorers in their efforts to find the route to the Western Sea, that mysterious passage which for three centuries served as an incentive for discovery to those who sought a short cut to the Far East." The data upon which this study is based has for the most part been available to scholars for a long while. The originality of the author's treatment consists in his tracing in continuous fashion the history of the idea contained in the title.

The scope of the work is necessarily extremely broad, from the viewpoint both of time and of geography. The beginnings of the story are traced back into the Middle Ages, while the narrative is carried down almost to the end of the eighteenth century. Nearly the entire western hemisphere has been the scene of the activities of those seeking a passage to the Far East. The treatment is as nearly chronological as possible. The writer first reveals the early voyagers groping their way toward the New World, and gradually a new continent emerges from the chaos of their geographical conceptions. The search becomes more definite, and as time passes it is limited more and more to the region of the North American continent. The Spaniards withdraw, diverted by other objects, and the task of exploration is carried forward by the English and French, who first seek a way around the continent and then endeavor to force a passage across it.

As has been suggested, the volume is essentially the history of an idea, a history composed by piecing together the record of

the exploits of a vast number of individuals. And one would hesitate to say that the idea is altogether dead yet. Early in the sixteenth century Robert Thorne dreamed of reaching the East by sailing across the north pole, while today certain optimistic and venturesome spirits predict the opening of a similar route by air! The first three chapters deal mainly with the search for a passage to the Western Ocean by sea, while the remainder of the volume, with the exception of the final chapter, chronicles the search for a way across the continent by inland waters.

The book is based largely upon published source material, though some use has been made of manuscripts in the Canadian Archives. The author has given summaries, or digests, of this material, and has quoted freely from the narratives of the explorers in question. He has little to offer in the form of new material and throws little new light on disputed points. He properly devotes a good deal of space to fictitious accounts, which often influenced profoundly early conceptions of the geography of the New World.

The first few chapters of the volume serve a useful purpose in presenting the exploits of the early voyagers in their proper historical setting, for these men were dominated by one great idea, to which their famous discoveries were more or less incidental. But as exploration progressed, the quest for the Western Ocean was subordinated to a considerable degree to the motives of trade and colonization. The original purpose may have been in the background, but it was certainly less apparent than at first, and there is danger of attributing to it more continuous influence than it really had. The book contains a number of excellent passages in which Dr. Crouse summarizes the progress made during certain periods and explains why changes in the aims and methods of the explorers appeared. It is believed, moreover, that the most casual reader will be impressed by the scientific outlook of the majority of those who engaged in the great quest. They collected data from every possible source and displayed great shrewdness in drawing conclusions therefrom. It was not necessarily their fault that their conclusions and predictions did not always accord with the facts.

Students of the history of Minnesota and of the upper Mississippi Valley will naturally turn to the numerous passages that describe the activities of the explorers who traced the rivers and lakes of that region. The names of Du Luth, Father Hennepin, Jacques de Noyon, and La Vérendrye are only a few of the large number mentioned in that connection. But the writer adds very little to what is already known of their achievements.

In attempting an estimate of the volume, one cannot help feeling that the author has missed his opportunity. There is undoubtedly a place in historical literature for a clear and concise treatment of the theme that he has chosen, but in the present instance the treatment seems neither clear nor concise. The outlines of the story are buried in an almost overwhelming mass of biographical and other information. The theme is adapted to treatment in the form of a brief volume, or better still, a short essay, but the author has produced a treatise. There are, it is true, many illuminating passages that indicate that Dr. Crouse has a real insight into his subject, but such passages are scattered and the reader must make the synthesis for himself. The volume ends abruptly, without any attempt at conclusion or summary. With the aid of the index the book will be valuable as a work of reference, and one might well make it a point of departure in any investigation involving a particular individual. The book is really a biographical cyclopedia relating to a phase of the history of discovery and exploration.

As regards printing and binding, the volume represents an excellent piece of work. Typographical errors are very few indeed, and there are a number of very good reproductions of early maps. There is a bibliography, and the writer has given full and specific citations to the authorities for most of the statements contained in the text. It is a real pity that the main thesis does not stand out a little more clearly.

WAYNE E. STEVENS

*The Development of the Flour-milling Industry in the United States, With Special Reference to the Industry in Minneapolis* (Hart, Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays, XLVI). By CHARLES BYRON KUHLMANN, PH.D., professor of economics in Hamline University. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929. xvii, 349 p. \$3.50.)

The cult of competitions is widespread today, but few of the winning plays, poems, and plans for peace, prosperity, or prohibition have won much approval. In one field, however, a competition has thoroughly justified its existence, for the *Hart, Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays* have consistently, during the last twenty years, been valuable contributions to economic literature, and many of their authors have subsequently stepped to the very front of the academic field. Dr. Kuhlmann, by winning the prize in 1924, joined this goodly company, and his essay, now published, shows that he fully deserved the honor. Once more the judges have, in racing parlance, "picked a winner."

The book does justice to an important subject, and while its author was chiefly interested in the Minneapolis part of the story he refuses to recognize any frontier of time or place. He ranges from the Pilgrim fathers to the future of Buffalo, and faces with equanimity a mass of material covering three centuries. Hence a teacher of economic history might almost use the book as a peg on which to hang a study of the economic development of the United States; and since the author is equally economist and historian, his analysis of such things as competition, the relative advantages of large- and small-scale production, regional specialization, comparative costs, and transportation charges is a godsend to any teacher searching for apt illustrations with which to relieve a lecture on economic theory. To the general reader the volume is a lucid guide to the "how and why" of developments both in the Northwest and throughout the northern half of the country, and the discussion of technical problems in nontechnical terms is perhaps the outstanding merit of the book.

"The rivalry of milling centers forms the central theme of the book," and those who are worried concerning the future of the industry in Minneapolis will find plenty to think about as they



watch the rise and decline of half a score of "millopolises." New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Rochester, Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Duluth, Kansas City, and Buffalo all have their hands read and their pasts revealed; and in each case certain common factors play their part in causing a center's rise and subsequent fate. The advantages that gave a mill city its first chance were at least three in number—a local market for flour, a local supply of wheat, and a supply of cheap power, usually in the form of a waterfall. Some wide-awake person sees the opportunity; little capital is needed, a sawmill is already there, and so a flour mill is built, possibly as a custom mill, grinding the neighbors' wheat in return for a fee paid in flour. Soon the miller-merchant follows, buying grain and selling flour; but if this little neighborhood industry is to win a wider national or international market, other factors must play their part. The district must become a big wheat-growing area; improved transportation must be available to bring the crops long distances to the mill and to take the flour to the outer world; and eventually much may hang on the question of comparative freight rates between the mill center and the farms on the one hand and the consumer on the other. Methods and quality are of vital importance; Dr. Kuhlmann makes it very clear that the rise of Minneapolis was predominantly due to the enterprise and willingness to experiment of the men who evolved and improved milling processes and adopted the roller system of gradual reduction. The more one reads economic history the more one realizes the importance of this personal factor; change and progress are not so much the result of the operation of inexorable economic laws as of the foresight, patience, ingenuity, and the refusal to be beaten of industrial pioneers. The old order, the vested interests, laugh at these men, and maybe call them "bounders"; but even if the cap fits the fact remains that for nearly every step forward the world is indebted to the bounders.

The Minneapolis story starts untrue to precedent, for while there was the market and the power there was no local wheat. Much of the early flour was made from wheat brought upstream from Iowa and Illinois. But the spread of spring wheat growing remedied this defect once the new milling processes came,

while the quality of the flour produced by these new methods and the new wheat made the city world famous. Concentration in a few giant mills helped to foster efficient production, until eventually the industry was dominated by three firms. The millers improved their rail connections by interesting themselves in the construction of the Soo Line and the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad, and took full advantage of freight rates which, their opponents claimed, were unduly favorable.

But with the last decade the advantages have disappeared and the production curve has turned downwards. Buffalo has forged ahead (largely thanks to the establishment of mills by Minneapolis firms), the freight rate position has ceased to be advantageous, the mills have become almost out of date, and the supply of raw material is falling off in quantity and quality. Yet Dr. Kuhlmann is not without hope. Buffalo's growth has been fed by two "highly precarious advantages"—low freight rates on the Great Lakes and the entry of Canadian wheat in bond. If Canadian wheat could be brought in bond to Minneapolis direct by rail and if the mills could be brought up to high efficiency point the local industry might recover some of its lost ground. Thus the author's prophecy is on a note of resigned optimism. "While there is little likelihood that Minneapolis will ever be able to reach the position of superiority which it has held in times past, there is no reason to think that it will not for a long period to come be in the front rank of the milling centers of the world." A fairly safe prophecy for which its author is not likely to be stoned to death!

HERBERT HEATON

*Christopher C. Andrews, Pioneer in Forestry Conservation in the United States: For Sixty Years a Dominant Influence in the Public Affairs of Minnesota: Lawyer: Editor: Diplomat: General in the Civil War. Recollections: 1829-1922.* Edited by ALICE E. ANDREWS. With introduction by WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL, LL.D. (Cleveland, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1928. 327 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Minnesota's cultural wealth has been increased because General Andrews at the age of seventy-eight, "at the earnest request of

his daughter," took upon himself the task of writing his recollections. A word of praise may well be accorded that daughter not only for urging her father to write this volume but also for editing it and making it available to the public. Though Minnesota has had many distinguished men and women whose careers are historically interesting either because of unusual achievements or because they typify the spirit of a given time or movement, the state can point to relatively few autobiographical volumes or published diaries. There are signs that a change in viewpoint is at hand, that there is developing a keener appreciation of the importance of leaving a written record. Dr. Folwell stresses the value of General Andrews' life as an example of high-minded conduct for young men to study and to emulate. The reviewer would like to stress the wisdom and spirit that the general exhibited in tackling at seventy-eight the laborious task of writing his memoirs, thus affording an example for older men and women to study and to emulate. Since many Minnesotans may not have Alice Andrews in their families to urge them to write their recollections, the reviewer seizes the present opportunity to request them, humbly and respectfully, to do so.

This review is being written in Europe, where the writer is enjoying the exhilarating experience of studying other peoples and other customs. He has noticed among other things the urge that Europeans, especially Englishmen, seem to feel in the matter of writing their autobiographies. They do not defer the task until they are on their deathbeds; some of them, indeed, seem to find time for it—to make time for it—while they are still in the midst of the duties of public office or the cares of active business or professional life. Men like General Andrews and Judge Ueland have set the example at home. It is to be hoped that many will follow it. To write the history of American civilization it is necessary to have the experiences and the reflections of men and women from every walk of life recorded if possible. A comprehensive collection of such records would unquestionably prove a mine of valuable historical material—recollections of native-born Americans and of immigrants; of generals, diplomats, politicians, lawyers, teachers, preachers, journalists, engineers, business men, doctors, and dentists; and of people in many

humble positions, for instance, street-car conductors, whose opportunities for observing contemporary *mores* are unexampled. (Once there was a street-car conductor in Minneapolis named Knut Hamsun.) And what interesting documents they would prove, both historically and humanly! Take General Andrews', for example.

It was not for nothing that General Andrews bore the name of the pioneer of pioneers, for he possessed something of the Columbus spirit. Not that he was a discoverer of new worlds; but he vigorously explored worlds that were new to him; he pioneered on two geographical frontiers; his life story has connections with three continents; and in his later years he pioneered a frontier of public service, winning the title of the "true prophet of forestry," which Dr. Folwell awards him in his introduction to the present volume. He was not, like his namesake, a sailor and an admiral, but he was a soldier and a general. And his military achievements form just a single chapter in one of those varied careers that were possible only before the age of specialization was inaugurated.

General Andrews was what one may call a well-documented man. He kept a diary through most of his active life and he seems to have used it to refresh his memory in writing his recollections; occasionally the editor supplements his account with passages from it. On the whole direct quotations from this source are few, a fact that the reader regrets, for the diary, judged by the extracts printed, is a record of interest and importance. For almost every considerable experience in his life, Andrews "documented" himself at the time — through letters and articles in the newspapers, books telling of his travels, official reports, essays and historical studies, and published addresses. He was thus able at almost every point to check his memory by his own contemporary records, which in most cases are more detailed than the present narrative. The author conceived his task to be one of selection, omission, and compression — the working out of a connected account of the entire career. A bibliography of General Andrews' numerous published writings would have added considerably to the value of the book as a work of reference.

The volume, which is handsomely printed and competently indexed, contains nine chapters. The first presents an attractive picture of a New England boyhood. Andrews was born on October 27, 1829, at Hillsboro, Upper Village, New Hampshire, of old New England stock. He tells of the village life, his home, his early schooling, and of sundry childhood experiences, including his first cigar, a disaster that occasioned remorse and confession. In his fourteenth year he went to Boston to be a clerk in "the leading retail provision store" of that city. Among notable experiences in the cultural capital was that of hearing Webster deliver the famous Bunker Hill Monument oration. The second chapter, "Early Law Practice in Massachusetts," is more inclusive than the caption indicates, for it tells of his schooling at Francetown Academy, interrupted by two years of work in Boston; of legal studies in a law office at the Upper Village, coupled with experience as a school teacher; of studies in the Harvard law school, continued in a Boston law office; of independent practice at Newton Lower Falls; and of the slavery controversy and other subjects that caught the author's interest in the late forties and early fifties. A notable figure in legal circles was Rufus Choate, whose wit and eloquence made a deep impression on Andrews' mind.

By filling out the next chapter, on "Kansas and the Anti-slavery Agitation of 1854 to 1857," with passages from the diary, the editor has added much to the picture of the Kansas situation as viewed by the young New Englander who set off for the West in 1854. "Kansas," he writes reminiscently, "seemed far more remote then, than does Alaska now." The diary excerpts reflect the excitement in Boston over the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act; and when Andrews left on May 30 his departure was "made in the midst of the Fugitive Slave Riots." He spent six months in Kansas, chiefly at Fort Leavenworth, and wrote letters during that period to the *Boston Post* — "at three dollars a letter." Casual diary items reflect conditions in Kansas: Andrews witnesses a camp of four hundred Mormons; he sees a victim of cholera lying at a roadside; he hears a rumor that he is an abolitionist and "that the squatters have

intimated that some personal violence would be done me"; and at a squatter meeting he is called upon to define his position, whereupon he explains that, though not an abolitionist, he wants Kansas to be a free state. After a half year he went to Washington, thinking that he could "be of service to the territory of Kansas, no delegate having been elected." He remained there for two years as a clerk in the treasury department. He then determined to remove to Minnesota to practice law; a trip of investigation in 1856 was followed a year later by his settlement in that territory.

A chapter, based in part on his little book *Minnesota and Dacotah*, is devoted to "Minnesota and the Northwest, 1856 to 1860." The author tells of his visit to Fort Ripley and Crow Wing in 1856; records his early views on the future of Minnesota; chronicles his settlement at St. Cloud in 1857; describes trips to the Red River Valley in 1858 and to Long Prairie in 1859; and gives a brief account of the campaign of 1860, in which he took an active part as a Douglas Democrat. Minnesotans will have their appetites whetted by this chapter for the more bounteous detail given in the diary and the newspaper letters for this period.

Two chapters follow on the Civil War and reconstruction, during which Andrews gave what Dr. Folwell calls his "most conspicuous service to the country." Quick to enroll after the president's call for volunteers, he entered vigorously upon the work of organization, spent a week at Fort Ripley picking up the rudiments of drill, and was shortly made an officer in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. His sharp opposition to the notorious surrender of that regiment at Murfreesboro — which he records in detail — was in part responsible for his rapid promotion after his return to the army from three months in southern prison camps. A clue to his character is the fact that while in prison he read Shakespeare and Plutarch and wrote a manual entitled *Hints to Company Officers*. After his exchange he served to the end of the war, coming out a division commander. His account of reconstruction activities in the districts of Alabama and Texas, of which he was commander, is an informing one.

In the fall of 1865 Andrews returned to Minnesota. One of his first civilian activities was to write a book on the Mobile campaign, in which he had participated. He passes over his career from 1865 to 1869 in three pages. Then came a period of eight and a half years as United States minister to Sweden and Norway. This is the subject of a long chapter, which the student may supplement by reading Andrews' numerous official reports and unofficial papers about the two northern countries. His interest was here aroused in scientific forestry, a field which he later exploited in Minnesota. The soldier-diplomat returned to Minnesota and for a short time was a newspaper editor in St. Paul, but in 1882 he was appointed consul general to Brazil, a position that he held for three years. His chapter on Brazil is in the main a condensation of his book, *Brazil, Its Conditions and Prospects*.

"I had always loved trees," writes Andrews; and to trees and conservation he devoted most of the rest of his life in connection with the Minnesota forestry service. The *Recollections* fittingly close with a review of this work. Dr. Folwell thus summarizes the author's achievements in this field: "He framed and secured the passage of the first forestry law in Minnesota. General Andrews's initiative started the movement that resulted in the creation of two national forests in Minnesota. . . . It was through his influence that Congress . . . granted to the State of Minnesota twenty thousand acres of public land for experimental forestry purposes, the tract now called the Burntside Forest."

The book is largely a record of public service. It takes the reader behind the scenes on relatively few occasions; its rigid reserve is curious in view of the author's announcement that as he is not writing for publication he feels free to speak out. Again and again—unless portions of his text have been left out by the editor, who unfortunately has not explained her editorial method—he has ignored opportunities to speak out freely; his assumption that the book will not go before the public seems after all to be an affectation. His reticence puts a sharp limit upon the historical value of the book. The situation might perhaps have been saved by the editor had she chosen to supplement the recol-



lections by drawing generously upon the diary; but this she has not done. The result of it all is, as has been suggested, a compressed summary of a life story already very well documented. This is useful, but it makes slight contributions to history. On the other hand, the record permanently enrolls General Andrews, in Dr. Folwell's words, "in the list of distinguished Minnesotans."

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

*Recollections of an Immigrant.* By ANDREAS UELAND. (New York, Minton, Balch and Company, 1929. x, 262 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Judge Ueland has chosen the title of his book carefully and its promise is fulfilled with precision. The first scene is in south-western Norway, the parish of Heskestad, where the author was born some seventy-five years ago, the son of Ole Gabriel Ueland, one of the most noted political leaders produced by the *bønder* in modern Norway—though Mr. Ueland carefully avoids making any such high claims for his father. Here on a little farm began the home schooling of the author, whose recollections go back to winter-night conversations in the late fifties, "the members of the family and the servants sitting around the light of a tallow candle or of an open three-cornered iron lamp burning bad-smelling cod-liver oil." Here he was introduced to Norwegian folklore and here he heard echoes of the world outside, including distant America. A winter-night question that he remembers is, "What can have become of Knut Eie?" This individual was probably the companion of Cleng Peerson, who in 1821 had set off for America on a trip of investigation. Eie is believed to have died in the United States before 1825. It may well be that by recalling this question, Judge Ueland has unconsciously solved a minor historical problem. He explains that he thought this Knut Eie was from his own parish, but that he later learned from historians that Eie was from Ryfylke. Perhaps the historians are wrong and the judge right, for the Ryfylke Eie turned up, safe and sound, in 1837, when by all the rules of historical evidence he should have been occupying a grave in New York. Since the reviewer, like the judge, prefers natural to miraculous explana-



tions of human phenomena, he ventures the guess that there were two Knut Eies, and that Peerson's comrade came from Heskestad.

Mr. Ueland's home education was supplemented by studies under an itinerant schoolmaster, who emphasized Luther's *Smaller Catechism* and the doctrine of verbal inspiration. Enjoined as a boy to say grace before and after meals, Mr. Ueland recalls a certain incongruity: "The form of grace was taken from Luther's *Smaller Catechism*, and fitted no doubt well to Luther's own meals, but little to our mush and milk." Verbal inspiration could hardly be refuted by a small boy, but Mr. Ueland takes up the subject in these memoirs, and in his third longest chapter the doctrine receives a devastating lawyer's analysis; between the lines one reads the author's anticipation that the essay will make uncomfortable reading for contemporary Luthern fundamentalists, who on numerous occasions are the victims of his slightly ironical thrusts. Boyhood education was furthered in other ways, for example, by reading, for the Ueland home boasted such works as *Snorre Sturlason*, *Saxo Grammaticus*, and the plays of Holberg. The influence of the wise and experienced father is also apparent: "Walking with him on starlit evenings he would point out and explain planets, stars and constellations." The father was familiar with *Poor Richard's Almanac* and often spoke admiringly of Franklin. In 1866 Mr. Ueland made a four-month's trip to Stockholm with his father, who there executed an important political mission.

In January, 1870, Ole Gabriel Ueland died, and the younger Ueland's world was changed. An older brother was to receive the farm; Andreas did not want to teach, as his mother urged him to do. Should he remain at home? Or become a laborer? Or learn a trade? Or go to sea? Ah, there was yet another possibility — for him, as for many others — America! A farmer from Houston County, Minnesota, visited Norway in 1871 and during the following winter was the active agent in infecting "half the population in that district with . . . America fever." Mr. Ueland came down with it; he describes its principal symptom in a trenchant line: "It was like a desperate case

of homesickness reversed." In the nineteenth century the attitude of the Norwegian official classes toward America and emigration was generally unfriendly, not to say injudicious, and there was a vigorous anti-emigration propaganda from pulpit and press. In Mr. Ueland's case the opposition began at home, but he finally won his mother's consent and set off for America, his destination Minnesota. Then, as later, he was nothing if not independent. His companions bought tickets to Houston, the place from which the germ-carrier of the "America fever" had come. "Seeing this," writes Mr. Ueland, "I took a ticket to the next station beyond, Rushford." An hour after he arrived he accepted a job grubbing trees for a Norwegian farmer at fifty cents a day and board.

The making of an American had begun in approved fashion. One expects a period of storm and stress — and there was such a period, lasting six years; but Mr. Ueland does not tell of it in the approved fashion of the self-made man. He does give a good picture of the struggles of the first year — grubbing trees, an anxious search for work in Minneapolis, the purchase for three dollars of *One Hundred Lessons in English*, farm work with a kindly American family of Dutch stock, threshing, plowing, the return to Minneapolis to work "on the first sewer built in that city," the study of English in an ungraded school, a lonesome Christmas. Then follows a record of five years of hard work, with some schooling in the winters and an opportunity to study law in a law office — but Mr. Ueland passes over these five years in six lines. A letter to his mother, dated May 30, 1877, telling her that he has passed the examination for admission to the bar, comes next. It is followed by a brief comment: "If I am entitled to credit for anything accomplished it is for being admitted to the bar six years after I landed at the Castle Garden."

Having used thirty-nine pages to tell the story of his life up to this point, Mr. Ueland abandons the chronological method. He gives a brief statement about the beginnings of his law practice in Minneapolis. He tells of his election as judge of probate in 1881 and of his reelection two years later. In all he held the judgeship five years; since 1887 he has neither sought nor held

public office. He offers a few—but only a few—political reminiscences. Among other things he mentions the fact that he bolted Bryan in 1896 and “voted faithfully for Palmer and Buckner.” This ticket was apparently unpopular in his district—it got only two votes, his own and that of his “hired man.” All Minnesotans know that Judge Ueland has had a distinguished legal career; he devotes only thirty-one pages, however, in scattered chapters, to this subject, and he mentions only a few cases—among them several that he has conducted as general counsel for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The author obviously does not consider extensive contributions to the history of law practice in Minnesota as coming within the scope of his book.

Mr. Ueland warms to his subject, however, not to say crackles, when he takes up the general problem of the Norwegian immigrant in America, the theological views of Norwegian Lutherans, and his own reactions to Norway on visits to the land of his birth made in 1909, 1913, 1924, and 1928. In an interesting brief chapter on “Native and Immigrant Psychology” he attempts to explain the gravitation of Scandinavians toward politics and public office. He declares that the average Scandinavian immigrant in the earlier period was “not inferior, physically, morally or mentally, or in point of education, to the average American, but as to fitness for the new country he was at first much inferior.” The American had had two hundred years of experience in the country and English was his native tongue. The Scandinavian felt humiliated by being considered less fit than the American; his defense mechanism—the judge is not guilty of using the term—was to boast about his native land and to seek public office, thus to raise himself in the esteem of Americans. The author recognizes that politicians were not tardy about taking full advantage, on party grounds, of this tendency. It is high time for some trained student of political currents and public psychology to study this interesting subject. What was the relative importance of the Scandinavian desire for office and the politician’s desire to attract votes through using Scandinavian candidates? And what was the effect of “racial recognition” upon the popular vote? Was a small part of the Norwegian interest in politics

a hold-over from the old country? It is at least of some interest to know that in Norway the nineteenth century witnessed a great and successful struggle for power by the *bønder*, the farmers, the class that contributed so powerfully to American immigration, against the old officialdom — a struggle led by men of the stamp of Ole Gabriel Ueland.

Mr. Ueland is sharply critical of the efforts of Norwegians, or Norwegian-Americans, to retain the Norwegian tongue in America, and he questions the wisdom of such activities as that represented by the League of Norwegians, organized in Norway, which, he says, "advocates retention of the Norwegian language by the emigrants and seeks to foster on their part a certain common national consciousness with the people in the mother country, and appreciation of old Norwegian customs and traditions." Many Norwegians are very much concerned about preserving "the inheritance," as they call it, and contributing something of it to American life. This inheritance receives short shrift from Mr. Ueland — in the field of religion he considers it to consist largely of a demonology that the higher criticism has demolished and in general of a fundamentalism against which he brings up heavy guns; the historical part, he suggests, is a bubble which he offers to puncture by making genial sport of Norway's ancient kings; the great achievements of modern Norway, he explains blandly, were accomplished after the emigrants left and can hardly go into the inheritance. Needless to say, his views have evoked a pointed, not to say warm, discussion in Norwegian and Norwegian-American newspapers. Somewhat blinded by the smoke of the battle, the reviewer will merely observe that the Norwegian language appears to be spoken less and less by members of the second, to say nothing of the third, generation, and that the Americanizing process — perhaps a more complicated thing than some so-called hundred per cent Americans have considered it to be — is proceeding on its inevitable way. Efforts to retard or to hasten such processes, involving hundreds of thousands of people in various circumstances and environments, seem to be singularly ineffective. Meanwhile one thing is of first importance — to study the intricate influences that will help to bring about an

understanding of how the American population has come to be what it is. And the opportune time to gather up the records is before the transition shall have been completed.

It is possible that the matter of an "inheritance" is more subtle than it appears to be. It is not wholly unbelievable that it works itself out in considerable part simply if the individual is himself. Judge Ueland, for example, has quite obviously been himself, not somebody else. Being himself has involved having his own character and intelligence. Among other things it has involved an interest in the promotion of friendly understanding, as opposed to ignorance, between related peoples. The reader of his book is quick to sense, also, a keen interest in everything that pertains to Norway and his own backgrounds. One-fourth of the volume is devoted to chapters telling of his four visits to Norway. His pages are sprinkled with apt quotations from Norwegian poets and writers. He has an informing chapter about the great poet, Bjørnson. He writes six charming little chapters about memorable banquets in Minneapolis in honor of distinguished visiting Scandinavians. His children bear names redolent of old Norse lore. He was an organizer of the Norwegian Art Society, the purpose of which was that of "bringing to the attention of the American public the works of Scandinavian artists." And Mr. Ueland has written the *Recollections of an Immigrant*.

The autobiography is one of distinction. It is told without a trace of pomp. There is neither boasting nor complacency. The record is presented honestly and simply, with emphasis upon views and standpoints rather than upon outer events. Mr. Ueland thinks of his story as a document that may aid Americans in studying "the influence of the immigrants on American life and the influence of American environment on the immigrants." He thus places his recollections in a broad American setting; the point of view is that of revealing the mind of an American immigrant. In this case that mind is marked by a spirit of restless inquiry; it delights in analysis; it has a horror of smug or conventional generalization; it is combative, rejoicing especially in bearding fundamentalists in their dens; and the strain of irony is never far away. It was an understanding daughter who presented Mr.

Ueland with one of the books by the author of *Erewhon*. This is not to imply, however, that the judge does not in the main accept the existing order. Though he attacks with vigor the position of religious conservatives, he appears to be in the conservative camp politically. And he defines his own position on various other matters as essentially that of an American of high percentage.

Mr. Ueland permits some glimpses into his family life, and one forms a partial picture of an ideal American home, but he writes with the restraint of a modest gentleman. If the result is not so revealing a social document as one might have wished, the allusive treatment does help to fill out the picture of the autobiographer. Still, many Minnesotans will feel a faint regret here, for Minnesota is proud both of the judge and of Mrs. Ueland — and indeed of the entire Ueland family. Mrs. Ueland's name and character are written into the broad story of the struggle for social betterment in Minnesota; and the reader, though conscious throughout of the ubiquitous influence of this remarkable woman, would gladly have forgiven the judge if he had permitted himself to speak more freely of his family.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

*Minnesota in the War with Germany*, vol. I. By FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK and LIVIA APPEL. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1928. xi, 374 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

This is the initial volume of a projected two-volume narrative history of Minnesota's contribution to the war with Germany. It has been produced under the direction of the Minnesota Historical Society. An earlier plan for a comprehensive history in eight volumes had to be dropped when the state legislature decided that the project was too costly, but not before the first of the proposed volumes — a *History of the 151st Field Artillery*, by Louis L. Collins — had come from the press. The present volume, however, is intended to stand with its prospective companion volume as an independent work. The completed project will present the story of Minnesota's effort in the war both in its military and in its civilian aspects. The first volume consists largely of an account of the emergence of the military machine; the second, which is

expected to appear within a year or so, will deal with civilian activities during the struggle.

The work has been done in scholarly fashion. It is apparent that the chief motive that prompted the undertaking was the obligation of preserving for future generations of Minnesotans the record of their state's contribution in the war. But the work is something more than a duty faithfully executed; it is a detailed story of part of a great human undertaking, accurately and interestingly told. Scholarly standards and requirements have never been lost sight of, yet they have not been allowed to obtrude themselves to the extent of concealing those traits of the soldier which reveal armies as aggregations of human beings. The book should, therefore, have a rather wide appeal. The historian bent upon writing a synthetic history of the war will need to consult it; the general reader will find it well within the range of his interests; and the men who actually fought the war will find in it a clear-cut picture of the vast machine in which they too often appeared as mere cogs and bolts.

The thirteen chapters that comprise the first volume take the reader from the summer of 1914 to the closing days of the war in November, 1918. The account of the return to a peace footing, with its readjustments and problems of demobilization, is left for the second volume. The first two chapters of the present volume trace the state of public opinion in Minnesota from August, 1914, when the *Minneapolis Journal* looked upon all war as "the great illusion" (p. 3), down to the spring of 1917, when even such a journal as the *Labor World* of Duluth was declaring that "Every liberty we enjoy came to us through struggle and at great cost in human life and property" (p. 59). Due space is given to the varying shades of public opinion. Then follow two chapters that relate the first moves of the state to prepare itself for the job ahead. Such units of the war machine as already existed — chiefly the national guard and the naval militia — were brushed up and prepared for service. They were shortly to be brought within the scope of federal organization. Recruiting campaigns for the army, navy, and marine corps were carried on with varying degrees of intensity. The results "were not commensurate with the expenditure of time and labor," although it



is recognized that the operation of the selective draft had a definite retarding influence upon volunteering. Minnesota was able to fill only about sixty per cent of its assigned quota for the army, a record that still placed it in the upper half of the rating by states. Three chapters are devoted to a description of selective service in operation and the training of officers at Fort Snelling. The principle of universal liability to service was a new one for both state and nation, and the account of how and with what success the principle was applied makes unique reading for Americans. Three additional chapters deal with the more specialized training of military and naval mechanics at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, of mechanics for the air service, at the Overland Building in St. Paul and of future officers through the Students' Army Training Corps at eight Minnesota educational institutions. These chapters taken together give an impressive picture of the unpreparedness of the United States along certain lines for any major military undertaking and the great difficulties encountered in converting the nation from a peace-time to a war-time basis. They also set forth the energy and ingenuity employed in making good these deficiencies. Two chapters are devoted to the training of Minnesotans at Camp Cody, New Mexico, and at Camp Dodge, Iowa. The final chapter is a very general account of the movements and activities in which many of the one hundred and eighteen thousand Minnesotans in the war may be assumed to have participated in one way or another.

It is something of a disappointment from the reader's point of view that, after having been shown at what cost and effort this military machine was put together, he is not able to see how it worked when put to the test. Only a few out of the 374 pages in the volume are devoted to an account of the men in action, whether on the fighting front, or on the high seas, or in the more prosaic work that went on ceaselessly behind the lines. But this is no fault of the authors. Rather is it to be charged to the fact that the military machine had been so constructed that many of its parts were standardized and could be freely transferred from one service or section to another. This accounts for the bewildering amount of transferring and replacing that went on and



effectually destroyed the identity of most of the Minnesota units. The Minnesota National Guard units at Camp Cody retained their identity more completely than any other large Minnesota contingent, which probably explains why the chapter on Camp Cody is allowed forty-seven pages while that on Camp Dodge receives only twenty-five pages. Camp Dodge was host to a larger number of Minnesotans than any other single camp, but up until June, 1918, it appeared to serve chiefly as a distributing point for the war department. Contingents numbering hundreds and thousands were dispersed from Camp Dodge to all parts of the country. It has not been possible for the authors to give space to each one of these exoduses.

The authors have sedulously avoided anything savoring of conjecture and speculation. One slight exception may be noted briefly. On page 373 appears the statement that "most of the letters [*written by men who saw action*] indicate that these men were there [*at the front*] not only because their country had ordered them to go, but because they really believed that their work in the trenches was a step in the attainment of a higher civilization than the world had ever known." Doubtless such a spirit was manifested *in the letters*. To say, however, that "It was this spirit that caused them to push on with an impetuosity that astonished the enemy, who neither understood nor knew how to deal with a foe who came with a rush" may be stretching the point just a bit. The causal relationship between what soldiers say or even think and what they do is one of the intangible things in life. What, for example, is the explanation of that extraordinary grudge against the Y. M. C. A. which the average "doughboy" carried back with him into civilian life? This, by the way, is the only point upon which the reviewer had decided in advance that he wished enlightenment and upon which he received none. Perhaps an account of the phenomenon is reserved for the second volume; or perhaps it belongs in neither volume. But it is a question that is bound to insinuate itself into any extended discussion of war-time psychology.

The work has been well done and the authors and those who assisted them are entitled to unstinted praise. The footnotes,

numerous and informative, testify to a thorough familiarity with all available material, and the dozen illustrations have been well selected. Every page, in short, shows careful workmanship. A general index is promised for the second volume.

ARTHUR S. WILLIAMSON

*My Minnesota.* By ANTOINETTE E. FORD. (Chicago and New York, Lyons and Carnahan, 1929. 416 p. Illustrations. \$1.28.)

A new book on Minnesota history adapted to the needs of the elementary school is always a welcome addition to the small number now available. Miss Antoinette E. Ford of Mechanic Arts High School of St. Paul has produced a book designed for use in classes or in libraries in the intermediate grades. Both geographic and historical material is drawn upon, the former filling the larger part of the book.

The exploration of Minnesota is the first subject discussed, five chapters being given to it. The journeys of Radisson and Groseilliers, Du Luth, and Hennepin receive two chapters, most of the essential facts being included; the expeditions of Carver and Pike are allotted a chapter apiece; and a chapter on the search for the source of the Mississippi is divided between a description of Itasca State Park and the travels of Cass, Schoolcraft, and Nicollet. The author passes judgment on the work of these explorers, condemning some and praising others in words that may produce a wrong impression. This portion of the book would be greatly improved by a map with detail omitted and the routes followed by explorers in reaching Minnesota as well as their travels within the state emphasized.

Three chapters are given to the early period of the settlement of Minnesota previous to the establishment of the territorial government. They include accounts of the building of Fort Snelling; of Mendota, the fur trade, and the services of Sibley; and of the Red River trade and early days in St. Paul, St. Anthony, and the St. Croix Valley. Frequent references to eminent Americans who visited the territory will probably be unintelligible to children in the intermediate grades possessing little general historical information. These chapters include many interesting details well

set forth. The single chapter on the Minnesota Indians suffers from a failure to distinguish with sufficient clearness between original Indian characteristics and the Indian as he came to be after long contact with civilization. The space allotted is inadequate to the subject. The history of Minnesota from the establishment of the territorial government in 1849 to the end of the Sioux Uprising of 1862 is described in three chapters. Alexander Ramsey's services receive adequate treatment. The treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, the episode of the saving of the capital for St. Paul by Senator Joe Rolette, the admission of the state to the Union, and the services of Minnesota men in the Civil War are all recounted, but special stress is laid on the Sioux Outbreak.

Some serious omissions of material are apparent. The activities of the missionaries among the Indians deserve a chapter in place of casual references. More to be regretted is the omission of any discussion of the institutional development of Minnesota since the Civil War, the part played by Minnesota in recent national undertakings, and the services of numerous Minnesotans whose achievements are worthy of record.

The last sixteen chapters, nearly sixty per cent of the book, are devoted to material chiefly of a geographical nature but with historical references. The chapter on the Minnesota forests includes much information about the history of lumbering. Similarly the chapters on wheat farming and iron mining discuss the history of those industries. The chapter on Minneapolis is largely local history, but that on Duluth is chiefly commercial geography. The last seven chapters describe an imaginary tour of the state by steamboat and automobile with visits to the state parks and the majority of the counties. Although the material presented is mainly geographical, items of historical interest are frequently included. For example, when the author takes her reader to Austin, she mentions that the city was named for Governor Austin and that Dr. Emerson and his slave Dred Scott visited the site in 1836. Such a reference is of questionable value, for it would mean very little to an intermediate grade student. On the whole this portion of the book is best described as a geographic reader.

The description of the state as it is today is most valuable because such material cannot be found in any other book in a form suitable to use in the middle grades.

This book needs more maps, especially of the type designed for use by children. Further questions and suggestions concerning teaching procedure would enhance its value to the rural school. Despite these criticisms, chiefly relating to omissions, the book marks a real contribution. It should be found in all Minnesota school libraries.

D. S. BRAINARD

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The eighth state historical convention under the auspices of the society will be held at Hutchinson on Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15, upon the invitation of the Union Club and local members of the society. An historic tour, which will start from the Twin Cities on the morning of June 14, will stop at Henderson and Glencoe before reaching the convention city. At the former place Mr. Verne E. Chatelain, acting assistant superintendent of the society, will present a paper on the career of Joseph R. Brown; at the latter there will be a luncheon and a conference on local history work in McLeod County. The principal address of the convention will be presented at Hutchinson the same evening by Dr. George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota, who has selected as his subject "When America Was the Land of Canaan." The tour will be continued on the morning of June 15, when the visitors will proceed to Litchfield, where they will be entertained at a complimentary picnic lunch and will attend a formal afternoon session. They will return to Hutchinson for another session in the evening. Other speakers who will appear at the various sessions include Dr. Charles J. Ritchey of Macalester College, St. Paul; Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, newspaper assistant of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul; Mr. H. L. Merrill of the Hutchinson city schools; Mr. Win V. Working of Blakeley; and Mrs. Peter Rodange of Litchfield. Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll, president of the society, and Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum, are serving as chairman and secretary respectively of the general committee in charge of the convention.

The appropriations to the society by the state for the next biennium have been fixed as follows: for "maintenance," \$30,400 for 1929-30 and \$30,800 for 1930-31; for "equipment, travel and office expense," \$20,000 for each year; and for completion of the newspaper stacks, \$5,000. The appropriations for maintenance are larger than those for each year of the current

biennium by \$3,000 and \$3,400 respectively; and this increase will make possible the retention of the position of head of the reference department in the library after the return of the librarian and a few much needed increases in salaries for members of the staff. It is not large enough, however, to permit the establishment of the position of curator of archives, as had been proposed (see *ante*, 49-51). As no further appropriation is made for war records work, the total for the next biennium, including the special appropriation for stacks, is \$4,600 less than that for the current biennium.

Thirty-four additions to the active membership of the society have been made during the quarter ending March 31, 1929. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BROWN: August H. Wild, Springfield.

CARVER: Paul A. Glaeser, Waconia.

CLAY: Dora J. Gunderson, Moorhead.

HENNEPIN: Ward C. Burton, Lois M. Fawcett, Henry G. Foote, Oscar Gulbrandsen, Twiford E. Hughes, Mrs. William S. Lindsley, Gerda Mortenson, Harry N. Owen, Adolph C. Simonson, Mary C. Smith, Stelle S. Smith, Dr. Clarence H. Turnquist, Grant S. Youmans, and Emil S. Youngdahl, all of Minneapolis.

HOUSTON: Arnold Fladager, Spring Grove.

HUBBARD: Herbert B. Stone, Park Rapids.

ITASCA: John A. Vandyke, Coleraine.

MCLEOD: Wallace O. Merrill, Silver Lake.

NICOLLET: Judge Henry Moll, St. Peter.

OLMSTED: Dr. Arch H. Logan, Rochester.

RAMSEY: Kenneth Brill, Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, Antoinette E. Ford, William B. Irwin, Ella Kennedy, Edwin L. Lindell, Rachel C. Mason, and Fred W. Sweney, all of St. Paul.

ST. LOUIS: Willard Bayliss, Chisholm.

NONRESIDENT: James S. Beddie of Fayette, Iowa; and Rev. Herman O. Hendrickson of Humboldt, Iowa.

The society lost nine active members by death during the first three months of 1929: James H. Weed of St. Paul, January 4; Charles D. Velie of Minneapolis, January 14; Dr. Charles L. Greene of St. Paul, January 19; Mrs. George E. Tuttle of Min-

neapolis, February 11; Laurits C. Pedersen of Askov, February 16; Henry E. Randall of St. Paul, February 21; Mrs. Mary L. Ames of St. Paul, February 22; Chauncey J. V. Pettibone of Minneapolis, March 8; and Mabel L. Sheardown of Winona, March 26. The death of Mr. Charles T. Taylor of Mankato, on May 29, 1928, has not previously been reported in the magazine.

At a meeting of the executive council on April 15 amendments were adopted to the by-laws of the society relating to dues. In view of the decline that has taken place in the purchasing value of the dollar and of the increase in the number of publications supplied to members, the council decided to raise the life membership fee from twenty-five to fifty dollars, the dues of sustaining members from five to ten dollars, and those of annual and annual institutional members from two to three dollars. At the close of the business session Dr. Grace L. Nute, curator of manuscripts for the society, spoke on "Collecting the Records of Indian Missions in Minnesota."

The possibilities of coöperation between the society and the American Legion were discussed by Mr. Chatelain at the spring conference of the Legion and its auxiliary at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis on March 16. His suggestion that valuable and interesting historical work, such as making surveys of historical materials and marking historic sites, might be done by the local posts has been taken up with enthusiasm by the state officers of the Legion. Mr. Chatelain's talk is printed in full in the *Minnesota Legionnaire* of March 27, and the writer of an editorial in the same issue appeals to local posts to make permanent record of their histories. Mr. Babcock gave an illustrated talk on "State Parks and Minnesota History" before more than two hundred members of the staff of the state highway department at the Highway Building in St. Paul on March 4. As a result the department has offered to erect metal markers with inscriptions at historic sites along the state highways, provided the society will designate suitable sites and prepare the inscriptions. Mr. Babcock has also given five talks before school classes recently, and he spoke briefly on plans for the eighth state historical convention before the Union Club at Hutchinson on March 6. Dr.

Nute spoke on the *voyageur* before the Nature Study Club at Minneapolis on February 13, and before the American Association of University Women at Duluth on March 25, using slides to illustrate the latter talk; and she gave illustrated talks on the fur trade before the Business and Professional Women's Club of St. Paul on February 19, and the Railway Women's Club in St. Paul on March 12.

The superintendent and the curator of manuscripts have made an historical map of the central northwest region embracing Minnesota, the Dakotas, most of Montana, and parts of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Wyoming, which will be included in an atlas of the region to be published by the University of Minnesota Press. The map shows the routes followed by explorers of the region, early military and wagon roads, and the location of Indian missions, trading posts, and military forts. It is to be accompanied by a sketch, six or seven thousand words in length, of the history of the region. The superintendent has also planned the series of fourteen population maps that make up one section of this atlas.

Among the "America letters" located in Norway by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, who is on leave from his duties as assistant superintendent of the society, is one written by the mother of Knute Nelson in 1863, while the future senator was in the Union army, according to an announcement in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 10. Dr. Blegen found the letter while on a trip into western Norway, where he visited Bergen and Stavanger among other places. An interview in which he describes some of the material already located and asks anyone owning "America letters" to send them to him is published in the *Stavanger Afterblad* for February 14. Further evidence that the Norwegian newspapers are showing an interest in Dr. Blegen's work and are coöperating with him is a long interview from the *Aftenposten* of Oslo, which is reprinted in the issues for April 4 of the *Skandinaven* and the *Decorah-Posten*, two Norwegian-American newspapers.

A revision of the paper read before the Sixth International Congress of Historical Sciences in Oslo by Dr. Blegen (see *ante*, 9: 297, 400) has been published in pamphlet form under the title



The "*America Letters*" by the *Norske videnskaps-akademi* as number 5 of its *Historisk-filosofisk klasse* for 1928 (Oslo, 1928. 25 p.).

Eighty-six readers used material in the manuscript division during the first quarter of 1929. Among them were three college professors, two candidates for the degree of doctor of philosophy, and a doctor and two dentists interested in the history of their professions in the state.

A brief note on the society is included in a section devoted to "Americana in American Libraries" in a volume entitled *The Reinterpretation of American Literature: Some Contributions toward the Understanding of Its Historical Development*, edited by Norman Foerster (New York, 1928). Attention is called to certain materials of literary interest in the manuscript division, including the Donnelly Papers; and the fact is noted that the society's library "probably has the largest collection extant of materials relating to or produced by the Scandinavian elements in America."

A sketch of the pioneer log cabin that Mr. Chilson D. Aldrich of Minneapolis designed for the society's museum is used as one of the many illustrations in his attractive volume devoted to *The Real Log Cabin* (New York, 1928. 278 p.).

#### ACCESSIONS

About two hundred letters have been added to the Knute Nelson Papers by Mr. Simon Michelet of Washington, formerly Senator Nelson's private secretary. They span the entire period of Nelson's political career, from 1867 to his death, and include many early letters written by him as well as letters received. Of exceptional interest are Nelson's letters to Soren Listoe, the American consul at Rotterdam, to whom the Minnesota senator expressed his personal convictions on such matters as the war with Spain, the election of 1890, the Kaiser's rôle in the Algeciras affair and in world politics in general, Roosevelt's and Taft's administrative and personal qualities, and the campaign of 1912. Mr. Michelet also presented the letters written to him after

Nelson's death by Congressmen, judges, and other political associates appraising the senator's character and career.

The records of the general and executive committees of the Knute Nelson Memorial Association have been presented through the secretary of the general committee, Mr. Charles J. Moos of St. Paul. They include about a hundred responses from prominent people to invitations to the unveiling of the Nelson statue and about the same number of newspaper clippings about the work of the committee.

A number of items of interest for the history of the Methodist missions in Minnesota have been obtained from the custodian of the Illinois Conference archives, the Reverend Arthur S. Chapman, and from the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Illinois. From the latter source have come copies of eighteen letters, written from 1839 to 1844 by the Indian converts, Peter Marksman, George Copway, and John Johnson Enmegahbowh, and by other Methodist missionaries among the Sioux and Chippewa, and published in the *Western Christian Advocate*, a Methodist weekly. Copies of items relating to Minnesota in the archives of the Illinois conference, which sent the first Methodist missionaries to the upper Mississippi country, and in the archives of the Rock River conference also have been received.

Recent additions to the society's transcripts of material in the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions relate for the most part to the Sioux missions in Minnesota during the outbreak of 1862. Copies of a few letters relating to missionary work in the state in the *Youth's Dayspring* and the *Journal of Missions* also have been received.

Photostatic copies of Roderic Mackenzie's manuscript history of the Northwest Company and of a list of the proprietors and *engagés* at that company's posts in 1799 have been presented by the Canadian Archives. The originals of the documents, which constitute sixty-five sheets, are in the Masson Papers.

Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona has presented thirty-two letters written by or to members of the family of his mother, Mrs. Abner Goddard, during the thirties and forties, and a short diary kept

by Abner Goddard on his wedding journey from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1833. Most of the letters were written in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri; and those that came from the latter state are perhaps the most valuable, for they tell of frontier conditions there. The Goddards later were among the earliest settlers of Winona.

Forty-four letters have been added to the Civil War papers of Mathew Marvin by his daughter, Miss Mabel Marvin of Winona, who presented the original collection in 1924 (see *ante*, 5: 507). Most of the letters were written by Marvin's comrades in Company K, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, during the war and the years that followed to 1893.

The papers of Galen H. Coon of Northfield, who was an agent for firms that manufactured agricultural machinery and furnished dairy supplies in Minneapolis in the eighties, have been presented by the Rice County Historical Society, through the courtesy of its president, Dr. C. A. Duniway of Northfield. The papers relate mainly to Coon's business activities, and are of considerable value for a study of certain phases of the agricultural history of the region tributary to the Twin Cities.

The papers of William Constans, a pioneer St. Paul merchant and real estate dealer, have been presented by Mr. August Fritsche of St. Paul. They include correspondence and accounts for the period from 1850 to 1909, and a volume of bills of lading of the commission firm of Constans and Burbank for the years from 1853 to 1855. The latter item will be of special interest to students of steamboating on the upper Mississippi.

A copy of a brief history of the First Congregational Church of Cottage Grove, by John P. Furber, has been secured from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Dr. Edward J. Brown of Minneapolis has presented a manuscript embodying his recollections of the medical profession in that city during the last fifty years. It includes valuable information about the history of a number of medical organizations and sidelights on the characters and careers of various members of the profession.

A copy of a master's thesis on the "Settlement of Clay County, Minnesota, 1870-1900," by Dora J. Gunderson, is the gift of the history department of the University of Minnesota.

A volume containing the applications of all members of the Minnesota society of the Sons of the Revolution and genealogical data about their families has been received from that organization.

From the estate of the late Frederick Carl Neumeier of Stillwater, through the courtesy of his son, Frederick G. Neumeier, has been received an extensive collection of newspaper files, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and pictures that should be of great value to students interested in the history of the German element in the Middle West. From the seventies until his death in 1927 the elder Neumeier maintained a printing office in Stillwater, which issued many German and some English publications. Besides material that duplicates files already in the library, the collection contains files of the *St. Croix Post*, a German newspaper, from 1878 to 1890; *Der Erzähler*, a magazine supplement to the *Post* from 1882 to 1890; *Hermann's Sohn im Westen*, the organ of the order of the Sons of Hermann, from 1891 to 1897 and for 1910; the *Washington County Journal*, an English paper, from 1893 to 1896; *Die Gegenwart* of Chicago, from 1889 to 1898; and the *Amerikanische Turnzeitung* of Milwaukee for most of 1888—all of which except the last two were published by Neumeier. The books and pamphlets also are mainly the product of his printing office and include official publications of the Sons of Hermann, of which order Neumeier was the first national commander. The manuscript material consists mainly of records of the business, but includes part of what seems to be the constitution of a German mutual aid society, the *Schweizer Verein*. Photographs of Neumeier and of many other German-Americans, mostly identified as to name and place, add to the interest of the collection.

A photostatic reproduction of a thirteen-page pamphlet entitled *History of the Newspaper Press of St. Paul*, by J. Fletcher Williams (St. Paul, 1871), which was not in the society's library, has been made for the society from the copy in the Library of Congress.

Photostatic copies of six exceedingly rare early Scandinavian items relating to America have been secured recently from the Royal Library at Stockholm. Perhaps the most important item in the group is Tobias E. Björck's *De plantatione ecclesiæ Svecanæ in America* (Upsala, 1731. 34 p.), which deals with the early history of the Swedish church in America and with the Indians. The other works are an account of new discoveries in America in 1691 by Olaus Beronius, entitled *Americam noviter detectam* (15 p.); a dissertation on the routes followed by the early Scandinavian explorers who crossed the Atlantic, by Georgius A. Westman, published under the title *Itinera priscorum Scandianorum in Americam* in 1757 (23 p.); an address by Olof Swartz relating to the West Indies, issued in 1789 with the title *Inträdes-tal, Innehållande anmärkningar om Vestindien* (27 p.); *Enfaldiga tankar om nyttan som England kan hafva af sina nybyggen i Norra America*, a discussion by Sven Gowinius of the resources of the English colonies in North America, dated 1763 (21 p.); and a botanical work by Esaias Hollberg entitled *Norra Amerikanska färge-örter*, also published in 1763 (8 p.).

A rare pamphlet printed in St. Paul in 1858, entitled *Records of the Organization and First Session of the Synod of Minnesota, with the Opening Discourse by the Rev. Thos. S. Williamson, M. D., Dakota Presbytery*, is the gift of Mr. John P. Pritchett of Kingston, Canada. Dr. Williamson's discourse is of special interest, for it tells of the work of the early missionaries among the Minnesota Indians.

A copy of volume 1, number 1 of the *Minnesota Wheelman*, published in September, 1885, in connection with the third annual meeting of the Minnesota division of the League of American Wheelman, an organization devoted to bicycling, is the gift of Mr. R. W. G. Vail of New York.

Twenty-two pencil and pen sketches of scenes on the upper Mississippi and the upper Great Lakes, drawn by Augustus O. Moore in 1862 and 1863, have been given to the society by his three children, Mrs. Nina Moore Tiffany of St. Paul, Mr. James L. Moore of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mr. Elliott A. Moore of Redlands, California.

An officer's sabre and dress sash and a powder flask used in the Civil War have been presented by Mr. W. R. Tait of St. Paul, and a pair of marine glasses used during the World War in the United States navy has been given by Mr. Paul P. Thompson of Winona.

Some interesting recent additions to the picture collection are a photograph of the St. Paul Ice Palace of 1886, presented by the Historical Society of Montana; two early views of Fort Snelling, from Captain Glen R. Townsend of Fort Snelling; photographs of some unusual copper implements in his collection, from Mr. P. O. Fryklund of Roseau; and several pictures of the Sibley House as it looked about 1898, when it was used as an art school, given by Mr. DeWitte N. Barber of Seton. Among the portraits recently received are those of Mr. and Mrs. Elam Greeley, early settlers in Stillwater, from Mr. John E. Greeley of Stillwater; of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Perkins, Minneapolis pioneers, from Mr. L. D. Perkins of Los Angeles; of James Wickes Taylor, for many years American consul at Winnipeg, from an anonymous donor through Mr. John K. West of Detroit Lakes; of Darwin S. Hall, from Mr. H. E. McLaren of Hector; and of Frank A. Day, from Mr. Arthur M. Nelson of Fairmont.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

A Conference on the History of the Trans-Mississippi West is to be held under the auspices of the University of Colorado at Boulder from June 18 to 21. The forenoons will be devoted to round-table discussions for which the following topics and leaders have been announced: "The Industrial Revolution and the Great Plains," by W. P. Webb; "The West in Foreign Relations," by Eugene C. Barker; "Geographic Influences," by Carl Sauer; "The Problems of an Agricultural Survey for a Western State," by Joseph Schaefer; "Finance and the Frontier," by Frederic L. Paxson; and "The Problem of Adequate Historical Collections," by Solon J. Buck. Groups of formal papers on topics in the fields of western missions, western transportation, and the West in American literature will be read at the afternoon sessions by Percy H. Boynton, Walter S. Campbell, G. J. Garraghan, Colin B. Goodykoontz, L. R. Hafen, Lucy B. Hazard, Archer B. Hulbert, John C. Parish, and Louis Pelzer. Professor Herbert E. Bolton will read a paper on "Defensive Spanish Expansion and the Significance of the Borderlands" on the evening of June 20. Anyone interested in the conference can obtain further information by addressing Professor James F. Willard at the University of Colorado.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its twenty-second annual meeting at Vincennes, Indiana, from April 25 to 27. Minnesota was represented at the meeting by Professors Lester B. Shippee and August C. Krey of the university, Professor Clyde A. Duniway of Carleton College, and Dr. Solon J. Buck of the Minnesota Historical Society; and among the papers was one of special Minnesota interest on "Captains and Cargoes of Early Mississippi Steamboats," by William J. Petersen. Dr. Krey presided at the meeting of the history teachers' section, Dr. Shippee presided at one of the general sessions, and Dr. Buck took part in an appraisal of the services of George Rogers Clark. A conference of state historical agencies, at which coöperative projects

under way or in prospect were discussed, was held in connection with the meeting. Two new projects of the association that promise much for the future are its historical manuscripts commission, which is to compile and publish catalogues or inventories of manuscript materials for the history of the valley, and the Clarence Walworth Alvord memorial commission, which is to raise a revolving fund for the publication of source material for the history of the West.

The Clarence Walworth Alvord memorial commission of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, which was established by the executive committee of the association in December and confirmed by the association at its April meeting, is composed of Solon J. Buck, Minnesota Historical Society, chairman; Arthur C. Cole, Ohio State University; Edward E. Dale, University of Oklahoma; Archibald Henderson, University of North Carolina; Archer B. Hulbert, Colorado College; Louise P. Kellogg, State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Theodore C. Pease, University of Illinois; Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Illinois State Historical Society; and Benjamin F. Shambaugh, State Historical Society of Iowa. The commission proposes to raise and administer a fund of ten thousand dollars to be used in producing a series of "Clarence Walworth Alvord Fund Publications" consisting of source material for Mississippi Valley history. The volumes are to be issued in limited editions for subscribers only and to be sold at prices that will maintain the fund indefinitely. As Professor Alvord was a member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota from 1920 to 1923, served on the council of the Minnesota Historical Society, and read several addresses at meetings of the society, the memorial feature of the project should appeal to Minnesota people as well as the opportunity of promoting scholarly work in western history. Contributions to the fund, subscriptions to the publications,—the cost of which will not exceed ten dollars in any one year,—and requests for further information about the project should be addressed to the chairman of the commission.

At the twelfth annual meeting of the Agricultural History Society in Washington, D. C., on April 29, Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology of the United States depart-



ment of agriculture, spoke on the history of economic entomology as related to changes in agriculture; Dr. E. A. Allan spoke on the work of the late Dr. A. C. True, especially in promoting the development of agricultural experiment stations and agricultural extension work in the United States; and Dr. Solon J. Buck, the president, spoke on "Some Materials for the History of American Agriculture." The society is publishing a quarterly magazine, *Agricultural History*, which is sent to all members; and membership may be obtained at three dollars a year from the secretary-treasurer, Dr. O. C. Stine, 1358 B Street, S. W., Washington, D. C.

Professor A. C. Krey of the University of Minnesota is the joint author with Dean George C. Sellery of the University of Wisconsin of *Medieval Foundations of Western Civilization* (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1929. 633 p. \$3.50), which covers the period from Roman times to 1660, and in the words of the editor, Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota, furnishes "in a real sense an introduction to American history." Though suitable for use as a college text, the general reader will find it of much interest.

"Precursors of Turner in the Interpretation of the American Frontier" is the title of an interesting article by Herman C. Nixon in the *South Atlantic Quarterly* for January. The author has missed, however, what is perhaps the most comprehensive statement of the influence of free land in American history before Professor Turner's famous thesis was formulated—that by Henry George in book 7, chapter 5 of his *Progress and Poverty*.

The first volume of the *Dictionary of American Biography*, edited by Allen Johnson for the American Council of Learned Societies (New York, 1928), extends from "Abbe" to "Barrymore." Of Minnesota interest are the biographies of Michel Aco, companion of Hennepin, by Irving B. Richman; Father Claude J. Allouez, by John J. Wynne; Professor Clarence W. Alvord, by Solon J. Buck; the Reverend Charles G. Ames, by Charles Graves; General C. C. Andrews, by Theodore C. Blegen; John Jacob Astor, by W. J. Ghent; Colonel Henry Atkinson, by W. J. Ghent; General James H. Baker, by Theodore C. Blegen; John Banvard,

who painted a panorama of the Mississippi River, by Sarah G. Bowerman; and Bishop Frederic Baraga, by Louise P. Kellogg.

Oliver G. Swan is the editor of an anthology of prose and verse dealing with *Frontier Days* (Philadelphia, 1928. 512 p.). In the first section, which is devoted to the pioneer, is a sketch of the "Old-time Fur Trade" by Albert Bushnell Hart.

Some social problems faced by the newcomer during his first few years in the United States are discussed by John P. Johansen in an article on "Social Implications of Americanization" in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for January.

Father Marquette and the expedition in which he participated have been dealt with recently in two quite different books by Catholic writers. The *Joliet-Marquette Expedition, 1673*, by Francis B. Steck (Washington, 1927. 325 p.), is a scholarly and well-documented study with an extensive bibliography, which develops three main conclusions: that the French did not "discover" the Mississippi River, because it had previously been discovered by the Spaniards; that Joliet and not Marquette was the leader of the expedition; and that the narrative usually ascribed to Marquette was not written by him. *Père Marquette, Priest, Pioneer, and Adventurer*, by Agnes Repplier (Garden City, New York, 1929. 298 p.), is a popular book without footnotes or bibliography, which reaches quite different conclusions. Father Steck has replied in a pamphlet entitled *Miss Repplier's "Père Marquette," A Review and a Refutation* (15 p.).

In an article entitled "La Verendrye: Commandant, Fur-trader, and Explorer" in the *Canadian Historical Review* for December, 1928, Arthur S. Morton undertakes "to put our conventional idea of La Vérendrye to the test, and to reach out towards a fresh interpretation of his career." The author has used contemporary sources, especially such as express any opinion in regard to La Vérendrye and his work, including his letters and journals. The conclusion is reached that "Throughout his career he played the part of the French officer at his best, worthily and with dignity. . . . No mere fur-trader this, though in some years the returns of his fur-trade were very great. Nonetheless the truth

is that he threw his wealth back into his command . . . all to enthrone loyalty to His Majesty in the heart of his savage children of the woods." Mr. Morton believes that had La Vérendrye "been allowed to carry out his policy of expansion first and exploration only when it should become feasible, he probably would have been on the Saskatchewan in 1745 and perhaps would have set his eyes on the Rockies before his death." This issue of the *Review* also includes an article on "Selkirk's Work in Canada: An Early Chapter," dealing with a land-speculation and colonization project of the young earl in New York state in 1800, by Helen I. Cowan; and a study of "Canadian Migration in the Forties" by Frances Morehouse. Notes on "David Thompson" by F. D. McLennan and on "Peter Pond in 1780" by Harold A. Innis appear in the section devoted to "Notes and Documents."

*Valiant La Verendrye* is a popular account, by Irene Moore, of the life and career of the great Canadian explorer of the Northwest (Quebec, 1927. 383 p.). Among the chapters that relate to his Minnesota adventures are those entitled "Making History at Lake of the Woods," "The First Grain-grower of the West," and "The Tragedy on Massacre Island."

An article on "Peter Pond and the Influence of Capt. James Cook on Exploration in the Interior of North America," by Harold A. Innis, in volume 22, section 2 of the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada for 1928, deals with Pond's contributions to the "development of fur trade organization" and his influence on exploration. The earlier part of the article is of special interest to Minnesotans, since it sketches Pond's operations in the Mississippi and Minnesota valleys in the Revolutionary War period and tells of his many visits to Grand Portage in the decade that followed, when he was developing the Athabasca trade of the Northwest Company. "Pond was a pioneer and an organizer and in a very real sense a father of the Northwest Company," writes Dr. Innis in summarizing his subject's fur-trade activities. The article has also been published as a separate (11 p.).

The Jesuit mission established at the Potawatomi village on Green Bay in 1658 is the subject of an article entitled "St.

Michael, the Gateway of the West," by Hjalmer R. Holand, in the *Peninsula Historical Review*, the publication of the Door County (Wisconsin) Historical Society, for December, 1928.

A pamphlet entitled *Documents Relating to Peter Cassel and the Settlement at New Sweden, Iowa*, translated and edited by George M. Stephenson (82 p.), has been published by the Swedish Historical Society of America as the February number of the *Swedish-American Historical Bulletin*. The documents, which are drawn from newspapers and a very rare pamphlet entitled (in translation) *A Description of the United States* (1846), were discovered by Dr. Stephenson in Sweden last year. They are printed in the original text in order "to afford those who read Swedish the full enjoyment of their contents," but an English translation follows. In his introduction the editor discusses Cassel's life and his colony and the widespread influence of his letters in promoting emigration from Sweden.

Duluth is described as "twenty miles long, half a mile wide, and half a mile high" in a book of travel by O. L. Björk, a Swedish Baptist minister, entitled *På tusenmilafärd: Minnen och intryck från en resa genom Förenta Staterna 1926-1927* (Örebro, Sweden, 1928. 420 p.).

A group of letters written during the Civil War by Ira Butterfield, a corporal in Company A, First Wisconsin Artillery, and now preserved by the State Historical Society of North Dakota is printed in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for January. At the time that Butterfield enlisted he was living near Hokah, Minnesota, and he makes frequent reference in his letters to people and conditions in that state.

The development of "The St. Lawrence Waterway in the Nineteenth Century" is discussed by George W. Brown in an article in the autumn, 1928, issue of the *Queen's Quarterly*.

*One Hundred Years of American Railroadng*, by John W. Starr, Jr., contains useful outlines of the origin and growth of the great railroad systems of the United States. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Chicago and Northwestern roads are treated in a chapter on the Middle West, and the Northern

Pacific, the Great Northern, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul in a chapter devoted to the northern transcontinental systems.

*Flying with Lindbergh* is a narrative of the famous aviator's tour of the United States for the promotion of aviation in the summer of 1927 by his aide, Donald E. Keyhoe (New York, 1928. 299 p.). Some of the incidents connected with his visit to the Northwest are related, and a map showing the route covered in touching upon the forty-eight states of the Union is included.

Marquis W. Childs discusses the "Freebooters of the Forest" who almost wiped out the "inexhaustible pineries, those vast tracts of timber in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan," in the January issue of the *American Mercury*. He asserts that a small group of "lumber barrons" gained possession of the most valuable of the timber holdings, pirated logs from government lands, and nearly destroyed the once enormous lumber resources of the Northwest. Methods of transporting timber, first by means of floating rafts and later in much larger rafts pushed by steamboats, are given considerable attention; and the life of the "roosters," "French Canadians many of them, who elected, when the drive of logs ended in the Spring, to spend the Summer rafting," is described.

Farmers and scientists whose discoveries have made possible the production of more food in the form of wheat, meat, and maize are the subjects of sketches in Paul de Kruif's *Hunger Fighters* (New York, 1928. 377 p.). A chapter on "The Maize Finders, Ancient and Anonymous," deals with the Indian's use of corn and the white man's early experiments with the cereal.

A comprehensive study of the combats engaged in by American industrial workers and farmers on the political field of battle has appeared in a volume by Nathan Fine entitled *Labor and Farmer Parties in the United States, 1828-1928* (New York, 1928. 445 p.). An exposition of the conditions leading to organized political activity on the part of these groups is followed by studies of the movements in which they sought redress for their grievances at various stages of American history; prominence is given

to the Socialist party, the "only significant and long-lived independent political party of the wage earners of the United States — so far." Of special interest to students of the political history of the Middle West is the chapter on the Nonpartisan League and the Farmer-Labor party.

Eugene W. Burgess is the author of a volume entitled *La "Nonpartisan League": Une expérience américaine de socialisme d'état agraire* (Paris, 1928. 244 p.). In sketching the historical background for his subject, the author presents general accounts of various radical movements in the United States — the Granger movement, the Greenback party, the Farmers' Alliance, the Populist party, the Free Silver movement. Emphasis is placed upon the situation in North Dakota in the discussion of the Nonpartisan League. Numerous pamphlets and official publications of the League and newspapers that supported it in the period of its greatest prosperity are listed in the bibliography.

The Mennonite colonies established in Minnesota at Mountain Lake and Butterfield in the seventies receive some attention in a chapter entitled "Establishing Frontier Homes" in C. Henry Smith's volume on *The Coming of the Russian Mennonites* (Berne, Indiana, 1927).

The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies and the Pennsylvania Historical Commission are coöperating on a survey of the Indian sites and monuments of the state. To finance the project the Pennsylvania legislature has appropriated ten thousand dollars. Plans have been made for the publication, after the survey is completed, of volumes describing the objects found, showing the sites where they were located on maps, dealing with pottery and its decoration, with Indian trails, and with Indian place names.

An article entitled "Farming in Iowa in the Sixties," by Louis B. Schmidt, appears in *Wallaces' Farmer* for November 16, 1928.

Pioneer social life in Wisconsin in the sixties, first at Hudson and later at Osceola Mills and at Superior, is charmingly described by Mrs. Clara C. Lenroot in a little volume of reminiscences that she has published under the title *Long, Long Ago* (1929. 68 p.).

Such matters as medical practice, schools, amusements, clothing, and food, and many detailed phases of frontier home life are touched upon. The writer's father, Solon H. Clough, removed to Hudson from Fulton, New York, in the early sixties and later became a circuit judge in the frontier state.

An interesting pamphlet entitled *Prairie du Chien and the Winneshiek: A Brief Illustrated History of la Prairie des Chiens and Vicinity in Early Times Together with Notes on the Winneshiek Region*, by Constance M. Evans and Ona B. Earll (1928), includes a brief survey of the outstanding events connected with the story of the old French town on the Mississippi, arranged chronologically from 1685; accounts of the fortifications and the fur trade at Prairie du Chien; and a sketch of "A Daughter of Fort Crawford," Charlotte Ouisconsin Clark. Among the illustrations are pictures of old Fort Crawford and the Brisbois and Dousman mansions, and a map showing the location of the town and some of its points of interest.

The *Letters of the Reverend Adelbert Inama, O. Praem*, which appeared in installments in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* from September, 1927, to December, 1928, have been reprinted in a separate volume (127 p.). The letters report the activities of a German Catholic missionary in New York and Wisconsin from 1842 to 1853. They were translated from the German by Karl Hohlfeld and the annotations were supplied by the Reverend Peter L. Johnson and William Nellen of St. Francis Seminary. Most of the original letters were copied from the *Central-Blatt* of St. Louis, though some of them were taken from the *Berichte der Leopoldinen-Stiftung*.

*Beauty Spots in North Dakota*, by Bertha Rachael Palmer, is a useful guide for the tourist who is attracted both by scenery and by the historic interest of this region (Boston, 1928. 266 p.). The author tells not only of the resorts and "beauty spots" of the state, but also of "Parks and Park Systems," "Monuments and Memorials," and "Old Landmarks." National, state, county, and city parks are listed; and the historical significance of most of the monuments is explained.



The Montana legislative assembly passed a bill recently providing a sum of \$250,000 for the erection of a building for the Historical Society of Montana.

In a survey of "Some Early Maps and Myths" connected with the Oregon country, published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for March, Charles H. Carey includes notes on the map drawn for La Vérendrye by the Indian Ochagach and on the map published in Carver's *Travels* in 1778.

Plans for the publication of some of the valuable source materials for the history of western Canada among the papers of the Hudson's Bay Company were announced recently by its governor, Mr. Charles V. Sale. In the company's new buildings in London space was provided for the care and preservation of its records, many of which had previously been scattered throughout Canada. All the material has now been removed to London and the work of classifying it has been started. According to the announcement the company has "long felt it a duty to make our information available to the people of Canada. Now that circumstances make it possible to do so, we propose to commence publication, and we have arranged to do this under the auspices of the Canadian History Society in the British Isles."

The visit of Nicholas Garry in 1821 to the site of Winnipeg and the fort which was to bear his name was described by Dr. Charles N. Bell in an address before the annual meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society at Winnipeg on February 27. An abstract of the address, published in the *Manitoba Free Press* for February 28, is accompanied by an interesting portrait of Garry.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A law authorizing county or city governments to provide rooms in their public buildings for the use of county historical societies and to appropriate funds for local historical work was passed by the 1929 legislature (chapter 324). In counties having a population of less than twenty-five thousand, the sum of one thousand dollars may be appropriated annually for this work; when the population is between twenty-five and seventy-five thou-



sand, up to two thousand dollars may be used; and in counties having more than seventy-five thousand inhabitants this sum may be raised to three thousand dollars. According to the law the money is "to be used for the promotion of historical work . . . and for the collection, preservation and publication of historical material, and to disseminate historical information of the county." A provision is added "that no County Board is authorized to appropriate any funds for the benefit of any county Historical Society unless such society shall be affiliated with and approved by the Minnesota Historical Society." A law passed by the legislature of 1927 relating to the disposition of certain county records (see *ante*, 8:205) has been reenacted with a few minor changes (chapter 66).

A number of laws passed by the 1929 legislature relate to the preservation and marking of historic sites in the state. An act to establish the Birch Cooley Battle Field State Memorial Park (chapter 75) provides that the site in Renville County where one of the fiercest conflicts of the Sioux War took place shall be set aside as a "state memorial park in commemoration of the heroic deeds and sacrifices of Minnesota's pioneer citizens and her soldiers and sailors of all wars." A concurrent resolution (number 15) memorializing Congress to establish a national cemetery at this place also was passed. Funds were appropriated and provision was made for the establishment of the Sam Brown Memorial Park at Brown's Valley, where a monument will be erected to the memory of the pioneer, Samuel J. Brown (chapter 357); for the erection of a monument in Milford Township, Brown County, in memory of fifty-two persons killed in the Sioux War (chapter 229); for the building of a monument at Moose Lake in memory of those who lost their lives in the forest fire of 1918 (chapter 230); and for the acquisition of additional land around the Lake Shetek monument and land for a highway leading to the marker (chapter 269).

A bronze tablet commemorating the services of Governor Ramsey was unveiled by his granddaughters, the Misses Anita and Laura Furness of St. Paul, at the State Capitol on February 8. Among the speakers were Mrs. William J. Dean, first vice

president of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota; Governor Theodore Christianson; and Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll, president of the Minnesota Historical Society. The tablet bears the following inscription:

In honor of Alexander Ramsey, 1815-1903. First governor of Minnesota Territory, 1849-1853. Governor of the state of Minnesota, 1860-1863. Conserver of the state school lands. First state governor to offer armed troops to President Lincoln for the defense of the Union. United States senator from Minnesota, 1863-1875. Secretary of war, 1875-1881. He laid the corner stone of this Capitol, 1898.

Resolute and vigorous in action, far visioned and sagacious in counsel, he gave the strength and enthusiasm of his life that the foundations of this commonwealth might be well established.

This memorial is erected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota, Anno Domini, 1929.

"Minnesota before the First White Man" is described by A. M. Goodrich in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 17. The author deals especially with the life of the Sioux in the Minnesota Country, and he tells of the attempt of the Ottawa and Hurons to establish themselves on the Mississippi. A reproduction of a drawing by George Catlin, showing "Indians Making a Portage around St. Anthony Falls," accompanies the article.

Government documents in the general land office at Washington and in the office of the secretary of state of Iowa at Des Moines relating to the "Survey of the Iowa-Minnesota Boundary Line" are published in the *Annals of Iowa* for January. They are supplemented by an interesting narrative by David B. Sears of Rock Island, Illinois, who as a boy accompanied the party that surveyed the line in 1852. A picture of the iron post placed at the southeast corner of Minnesota and the northeast corner of Iowa by Captain Thomas J. Lee in 1849, from which the line was run westward three years later, appears with the article.

*The Minnesota Election: 1928*, by Simon Michelet (Washington, D. C. 20 p.), is an interesting analysis of the results of the last presidential and state election and includes some comparisons with the elections of 1916 and 1924.

The political career of Frank M. Eddy, who died at St. Paul on January 13, is outlined by Elmer E. Adams in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for January 15.

Plans are under way for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Hamline University in connection with commencement week from June 8 to 11. In searching for material connected with the history of the university, the committee in charge of the celebration located a diary kept by Albert M. Rice, a Hamline student who enlisted in the Union army in 1864. A sketch of the contents of the diary, which was discovered by the Reverend William M. Rice of St. Paul, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 22.

A sketch of Harriet Bishop, the pioneer St. Paul school teacher, presented by Miss Lily Gudmundson at a meeting of the Milan Parent-Teacher Association on January 28, is printed in the *Milan Standard* for February 1.

An illustrated *History of Minnesota Football*, edited by Martin Newell, has been published by the General Alumni Association of the University of Minnesota (304 p.). It traces the development of football at the university from 1878 to the present and includes a section of biographies of "M" men.

An oil painting of the Falls of St. Anthony in 1855 by Henry Lewis has recently been presented to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts by Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis. A sketch of the artist, who is best known as the author of the rare book entitled *Das Illustrierte Mississippithal* (see *ante*, 5: 446-448), and a reproduction of his painting of the falls appear in the institute's *Bulletin* for March 2.

A sketch of the career of Mr. Leroy S. Buffington, a Minneapolis architect who is credited with inventing the "principle which makes possible the skyscraper of today," appears with his portrait and a picture of his first design for such a structure in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 8.

The experiences of a doctor in St. Paul in the eighties, when Dr. Justus Ohage went there from Germany to practice medicine,

are described in an interview with this pioneer physician in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 20.

Some recollections of James J. Hill by John Talman of Portland, Oregon, a former member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and a veteran newspaper man, are published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for January 20.

The development of *Agriculture in Minnesota* is graphically described in a pamphlet recently issued by the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota (1929. 64 p.). On one series of outline maps of the state the changes in population, the number of farms, farm products, types of crops, machinery, production, prices received for products, and many other matters are shown by means of statistics and pictures. A second series of maps is used in like manner to illustrate the influence that the university department of agriculture and its experiment stations have had upon the growth of agriculture in the state.

"The Early Day Trials of Producers and Grain Dealers and What Led up to State Supervision of Inspection and Weighing" in Minnesota is the subject of an article by P. P. Quist in the *National Grain Journal* for March. The author describes pioneer conditions in the state, when the "market for the surplus wheat was the river towns"; he tells of the changes that resulted from the use of machinery and the building of railroads; and he explains how the Farmers' Alliance and the Populist party secured legislation for the protection of the farmers in the eighties and nineties.

Under the title "The Amazing Ignatius Donnelly," Miriam Allen deFord gives a popular summary of the political and literary career of this famous Minnesotan in the *American Parade* for January. She describes her subject as a "sort of epitome of the American nineteenth century" who had a "touch of Barnum about him, a flip of LaFollette, a good deal of pure unadulterated Donnelly."

The diary of Governor Ramsey, which is owned by his daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Furness of St. Paul, forms the basis for an account of his Minnesota career by Lawrence Boardman, the first installment of which appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

for March 31. A review of the series will appear in a future number of the magazine.

"The Sibley Home at St. Paul, Minn," is the subject of one of a series of articles by L. O. Leonard dealing with "Famous Homes on the Rock Island Lines" in the *Rock Island Magazine* for March. Pictures of the interior and exterior of the Sibley House and a portrait of Henry H. Sibley accompany the article.

Jane Grey Swisshelm and the *St. Cloud Visiter*, the abolitionist newspaper that she established at St. Cloud in 1857, are the subjects of an article by Julian Sargent in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for March 11. The writer makes the statement that a file of the *Visiter* and of its successor, the *St. Cloud Democrat*, has "come into possession of the Minnesota Historical society"; these papers, however, have merely been loaned to the society.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Historical notes have been included during the past three months in a number of the accounts of Minnesota communities that are appearing each Sunday in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* on a page devoted to "Industrial Minnesota." A review of the early history of International Falls, which was incorporated as a village in 1901, by C. B. Montgomery; and a sketch of Alexander Baker, who filed the first claim on the site, are among the articles on this boundary town published on February 17. The "Romance of Paper at Grand Rapids" is the title of a sketch dealing with the origin and growth of the Itasca Paper Company, which appears with other articles on Grand Rapids on February 24; the early history of Hastings, which was a "boom town when river craft brought settlers to Northwest before Civil War," is related in the issue for March 10; and some of the historic points around Lake City are described in the articles published on March 17.

The story of the organization of the Aitkin post of the American Legion in 1919 and of its activities during each year since that time is outlined in the *Aitkin Independent Age* for January 26.

The pioneer days of automobile traffic in Aitkin are described in an article in the *Aitkin Republican* for January 24, which tells

of a primitive three-wheeled vehicle invented and built by John Hanson and of the first regularly manufactured car brought to Aitkin by Dr. A. G. Belsheim in 1907.

Bemidji as it was thirty years ago when Mr. P. M. Dicaire settled there is recalled in an interview published in the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer* for March 23. In the issue of the same paper for March 27 the problems that confronted the pioneer police force of Bemidji in the days when the lumberjacks flocked into the city to spend their earnings are described. The latter article appears also in the *Bemidji Sentinel* of March 29.

To mark the passing of seventy-five years since the first number of the *Frontiersman* was published at Sauk Rapids by Jeremiah Russell, the *Sauk Rapids Sentinel*, as the paper is now known, issued a "Diamond Jubilee Edition" on February 14. It includes numerous articles of historical interest—a detailed survey of the history of Sauk Rapids from 1844 to the present, an outline of the "History of Benton County between 1856 and 1918" with brief notes on the various villages and townships of the county, accounts of the pioneer newspapers of Sauk Rapids and Benton County, and a description of the tornado of April 14, 1886. A number of reminiscent sketches printed in the issue include letters from former editors of the *Sentinel*, and "Stories of Sauk Rapids' Logging Days" by Fred N. Sartell, J. H. Coates, and John A. Senn. Mr. Sartell's article is of special interest, since he describes the rafts and log drives and the sawmills at Sauk Rapids when the lumber industry was in its prime.

Plans for a Diamond Jubilee and Homecoming celebration at New Ulm from July 3 to 7 have been announced recently in the local press by the Junior Pioneer Association and the New Ulm Business Men's Association. In order to stimulate interest in the celebration, Mr. Athanas Henle of the Junior Pioneer Association has published several articles dealing with the beginnings of New Ulm as a German colonizing project in 1854; these appear in the *New Ulm Review* for February 13 and 20 and in the *Brown County Journal* for February 15 and 22. The author used this opportunity to appeal to Junior Pioneers to record their memories of early days and to send to the organization any manuscripts

or other material they might have dealing with the early years of the community. Perhaps the most interesting and valuable result of this appeal is a series of articles entitled "Treasures from the Old Garret," by Hugo Roos of Kansas City, the publication of which began in the *Journal* of March 15. In the first article, which serves as an introduction to the series, the author explains that he has "ransacked, on many a rainy Sunday afternoon, the old chests stored in our garret — chests that contained the private papers of my father. These papers had been stored there for thirty and forty years, and were all closely identified with the early history of New Ulm." Mr. Roos then presents a list of twenty-eight papers and documents that he has selected as being of special interest. The value of the material may be judged from the fact that it includes a copy of the report of the surveyor "which accompanied the filing of the plat of the town of New Ulm in 1858"; papers relating to the founding of the *New Ulm Pioneer* in 1857; bills of lading for certain Minnesota River steamboats for 1858; petitions for the "establishment of better mail service, bearing 51 original signatures of settlers of New Ulm and vicinity"; and numerous papers relating to the part played by the people of New Ulm in the Sioux War. In the second and third articles of the series, published on March 22 and 29, Mr. Roos summarizes the contents of several of the papers. It is to be hoped that he will soon place these manuscripts in some depository where they will be safer than in his own attic and where their permanent preservation will be assured.

Plans for the organization of a local historical society for Cottonwood County were made at a meeting of the Community Club of Windom on February 1, and a committee, of which Mr. H. E. Hanson is chairman, was named to consider the matter. It has decided to wait until early in the summer before organizing a society, but in the meantime it is gathering local history material through the use of a questionnaire, which is being sent to the older residents of the county. They are being asked to record their reminiscences and to supply "relics and other data that might be of historical value." Suggestions for the questionnaire were supplied by the Minnesota Historical Society.



At the first annual meeting of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, held at Brainerd on January 10, the following officers were reelected: Mr. S. R. Adair, president; Mrs. M. A. Bronson, vice president; Mrs. F. W. Wieland, secretary; and Mrs. Florence Fleming, treasurer. In connection with an announcement of the meeting in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* for January 5, Judge L. B. Kinder presents some incidents in the early history of the county. A portrait of William Morrison, an early trader in the vicinity, appears with this article.

An interview with Mr. E. J. Ingalls of Newport, a pioneer who settled at Dodge Center in 1841 and whose early experiences included driving a stage between Winona and Rochester, is published in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* of March 23 and the *Winona Republican-Herald* of March 26.

Two early mills built on the Upper Iowa River at Granger, Minnesota, and Florenceville, Iowa, on either side of the state boundary about 1870 are described in *Levang's Weekly* of Lanesboro for January 24. According to this account the course of the river gradually changed and destroyed the prosperity of both mills, which had been rivals for the trade of the neighboring region.

In an interview published in the *Grant County Herald* for February 28, Mr. Knute Eidal of Fergus Falls recalls his experiences in the blizzard of 1873 and of pioneer life in Stony Brook Township, where he originally settled.

The history of a little woolen mill on Bear Creek near Spring Grove in Houston County—a relic of the days when “these small water-power woolen mills were almost as common . . . as the gristmills”—is briefly sketched in the *Caledonia Journal* for February 13.

The history of the Jackson County village of Okabena, a community that was founded in the nineties, is outlined by Mrs. F. G. Barr in the *Okabena Press* for February 7.

The beginnings of the Norway Lake settlement, the massacre there in 1862, and the return of settlers who fled during the outbreak to reestablish homes on the original site in 1864 and 1865



are described in a series of articles by G. Stene published under the title "The Past and the Present" in the *New London Times* from December 20 to January 30.

How representatives of the German colonization company that founded New Ulm nearly selected a site near the present town of Le Sueur is related in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* for February 27.

The progress of the creamery industry at Montgomery from the first "skimming station" established about thirty-five years ago to the coöperative creamery started in 1917 is traced in the *Montgomery Messenger* for February 15.

Historical activity at Hutchinson has been greatly stimulated by the announcement that this city will be the host for the eighth state historical convention under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society on June 14 and 15. The Hutchinson Historical Society, which was formed in 1906 but had never since held a meeting, was reorganized on March 20 by a group of people interested in local history. They appointed a board of six directors, who met on March 22 and elected officers. Mayor H. A. Dobratz was named as president; Mr. J. M. Eheim, vice president; Mr. E. L. Higgins, secretary and treasurer; and Mrs. Sophie P. White, librarian.

Some early hotels at Hutchinson, especially the Sumner Hotel, which was used as a hospital during the Sioux Outbreak, are described in the *Hutchinson Leader* for January 18 in an article which forms one of a series on local history. Another sketch, published on February 15, outlines the development of the local fire department.

Early pioneer associations of Glencoe and the first gathering of pioneers at that place, said to have been held on June 11, 1857, are described by Win V. Working in the *Glencoe Enterprise* for March 28. The account is one of a series of local history sketches, which includes articles on pioneer clothing, January 24; the origin of the name of Sundown, a district in Green Isle Township, February 21; and the development of local government at Glencoe, March 7.

The career of Mr. John Kuhlmann of Lester Prairie, who has invented and manufactured many of the "conveniences and time-savers" used in the barns of the dairy farmers of his neighborhood, is the subject of a sketch in the *Lester Prairie News* for March 29.

The fact that migrations to the American frontier are often intrastate and from the last preceding frontier is illustrated by an interesting brief account of the settlement of a group of pioneers from Willmar in Marshall County in 1879, contributed by Nels Malm to the *Marshall County Banner* of Argyle for February 14. Mr. Malm tells of his trip from Willmar to locate the claim on which he has since lived near Argyle in March, 1879, and of his return to guide his neighbors and bring his family to the new home.

A recent addition to the list of county historical societies in Minnesota is the Martin County Historical Society, which was organized at Fairmont on February 2 with twenty-nine charter members. The following officers, all residents of Fairmont, were elected: Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president; Mrs. H. W. Brodt, vice president; Mr. Arthur M. Nelson, secretary; and Mr. E. Howard Fitz, treasurer. The society plans to have a corresponding secretary in each township of the county, who will coöperate with the local farm bureau. A constitution based on the model constitution for a local historical society prepared by the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, 4: 252-256) was adopted.

The winter of 1881 in Fairmont, when the town "had only two passenger trains in February" as the result of heavy snow, is described in a daily summary based upon contemporary newspapers in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for February 23. While the snow was the deepest a number of "pictures were taken by an itinerant photographer who came out from Winona and made a big set of snow blockade stereopticon views," several of which are reproduced in the same issue of the *Sentinel*.

The passing of fifty years since the incorporation of Little Falls as a village on February 25, 1879, was marked by the publication of an account of the history of the community in the

*Little Falls Herald* for February 22. It traces the story of Little Falls from the earliest settlement of the township in 1848, and it tells of the coming of the railroad; the establishing of industries, particularly the lumber, paper, and flour mills; and the later development of churches, schools, and a library.

A mimeographed outline of Minnesota and Olmsted County history, prepared by Grace Evans, has been issued for use in connection with the teaching of these subjects in the fourth grade of the Rochester schools. In the study of Minnesota history such topics as geography, the Indians, exploration, the fur trade, missions, settlement, the organization of the territory and the state, pioneer life, the state's part in the Civil War, the Sioux Outbreak, and the growth of the state since the sixties are included. Buck's *Stories of Early Minnesota* is being used as a text, and it is being supplemented by a number of well-known works on the Northwest, the state, and the county.

In connection with the preparations that are being made at Rochester for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the community from June 9 to 13, Mr. Burt W. Eaton has addressed about twelve hundred local high school students on the subject of the city's history. One of the features of the celebration will be a local history essay contest for high school students.

"Some Early History of Pelican Rapids," by Georgina Cole Harris, appears in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for March 23 and 25. The author declares that her main object is to make known the place in Pelican Rapids where the first settler built his cabin, since one of the avowed purposes of the Otter Tail County Historical Society is to erect markers on the sites where settlement began in each township of the county. The spot in Pelican Rapids that should be marked is just east of the present town hall, for here Harrison Harris built a cabin in 1869, according to Mrs. Harris. Some interesting reminiscences of the writer, who is herself an early settler, are included in the article; she tells of the early residents, the first store, the first school, pioneer social life, and early commercial development. In connection with the latter subject she recalls the visit to the settlement of Lord Gordon

Gordon and his negotiations with one of the pioneers, W. G. Tuttle, who was ruined financially when it became known that Gordon was a swindler. At the end of the article are printed letters from William H. and John H. Robson, members of a family that lived in Pelican Rapids in the seventies, in which they recall their pioneer Minnesota experiences.

Frontier life in Otter Tail County in the early seventies is vividly pictured by Mr. Hans P. Bjorge of San Marino, California, in a sketch published in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for February 26. He tells also of his family's emigration from Norway, giving the economic reasons for the departure; he describes the voyage to America in a sailing vessel; and he presents the story of the first year in America before the home in Otter Tail County was established in 1869.

The first of a series of articles on the region around Sacred Heart, by Ole O. Enestvedt, appears in the *Sacred Heart News* for February 14. In some of the early installments the author tells of the first settlers in the vicinity, of the organization of the township known as Hawk Creek, of the first post office established in 1870, and of the first Renville County court house at Beaver Falls. A plea for the teaching of local history in the Sacred Heart schools is included in the opening article.

The relationship between the local historical society and the public library was the subject discussed at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on March 18. Miss Gratia Countryman, librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, was the principal speaker; Dr. C. A. Duniway of Northfield, president of the society, and Dr. F. F. Kramer, president of the local library board, also addressed the meeting. The subject was especially appropriate, since in the plans for the new Buckman Memorial Library, which is to be erected at Faribault, a room is provided for the use of the Rice County Historical Society.

An article on Faribault — its history and its present points of interest — by Duane Clark appears in the *Western Story Magazine* of March 2 as one of a series of sketches of "Pioneer Towns of the West."

"I have got my house fixed up inside now and a work bench, a bunk and hen coop. . . . Right back of the bunk is a six-light window," wrote William F. Brown, now of Seattle, Washington, to his mother on December 26, 1871, soon after settling in Clinton Township, Rock County. The letter in which he depicted his pioneer experiences is now in the possession of Mr. E. A. Brown of Luverne and is printed in the *Rock County Herald* of Luverne for February 22. Frontier social and economic conditions are reflected in the letter, for the writer records that he entertained guests on Christmas night, having a "new hay-carpet down for the occasion, all my pictures hung up, and my best clothes on when they came"; he tells of making a "music stool for Mrs. Kniss in lieu of payment for bread-making"; and he describes a six-day trip by ox team to the "mill and store" across the border in Dakota.

The meeting of the Roseau County Historical Society—a room in the court house at Roseau in which the collections of the society, consisting of pictures, documents, newspapers, and pioneer objects, have been arranged—was opened to the public for the first time on February 18. A small admission fee was charged, and a lecture illustrated with slides borrowed from the Minnesota Historical Society was presented.

That a "pocket handkerchief served as first post office in Henderson" is announced in an article on the town's early postal service published as one of a local history series in the *Henderson Independent* for February 1. Sketches of some of the steamboat captains who ran boats on the Minnesota River in pioneer days appear on January 4, and the bridge built across that stream at Henderson in 1877 is the subject of the article published on February 8.

Among the recent articles in a local history series that is appearing in the *Arlington Enterprise* are an account of the smallpox epidemic of 1872, when the pioneers were forced to fight the disease without medical aid, January 3; a description of a pioneer rural school of the sixties, January 17; some recollections of Mr. Nelson Norman of Jessenland Township concerning his experiences with a Red River train between St. Cloud and Winnipeg,

January 31; and an account of the failure of the first town-site project at Arlington in 1857, February 14.

At a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Duluth on January 7, the Twentieth Century Club presented the program. It opened with a paper on the club's "Annals" by Mrs. R. C. Dryer; and it included a survey of the "Beginnings of the Practice of Medicine in St. Louis County" by Dr. C. A. Scherer; and an account of "Women at the Head of the Lakes a Century Ago" by William E. Culkin.

"Steam Boat Days on the Crow Wing River Back in Eighties" are described in the *Staples World* for March 14 in an article based on an interview with Mr. Bert Ellis of Staples, who owns a picture of what was probably the only steamboat that ever operated on the Crow Wing. He relates that after the boat was built an attempt was made to establish freight service between Motley and Shell City, but that the project failed because the boat could not go over rapids in the river. Although Mr. Ellis does not recall the name of the boat, it was undoubtedly the "Lotta Lee," which was built at Shell City in 1884.

The Minnesota Historical Society has supplied the officials of Wilkin County with historical information that may be used in planning the decorations for a new court house, which is to be built at Breckenridge.

Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Winona County Old Settlers Association on February 22. An article by Mr. Paul Thompson, historian of the association, which appears in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for that date, tells of the Rollingstone colony founded at Minnesota City in 1852 by members of the Western Farm and Village Association. Portraits of the "permanent members" of the association — those who survived the first pioneer hardships and remained in the community — appear with the article.

The contents of an old record book of the town clerk of Mooers Prairie Township, now known as Stockholm, in Wright County are described in the *Cokato Enterprise* for March 28. The material in the volume includes the records of the annual town meeting

of 1862, the names of the supervisors elected in that year, a list of all the men living in "district No. 1" in 1866, and some of the earliest chattel mortgages registered in the township.

A sketch of the "Ancient and Historic Layman Cemetery, at Minneapolis" is included in a pamphlet entitled *Minneapolis Memorial Cemetery*, compiled by Marion P. Satterlee (1928. 18 p.). Among the other items of interest in the pamphlet are accounts of Minneapolis Memorial Day ceremonies from 1880 to 1890 and notes on a few of the pioneers who were buried in Layman's Cemetery.

The history of a Minneapolis organization devoted to the study of local government and its programs from 1894 to 1923 have been published in a pamphlet entitled *The Six O'Clock Club* (42 p.).

The first number of *Saint Paul: A Quarterly Magazine*, published by the St. Paul Association of Commerce, appeared in March. It contains articles about a number of the city's industries and about several of its cultural assets, including the St. Paul Institute and the recently established Little Theater of the St. Paul Players.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 of the Masonic Order was celebrated at the Masonic Temple in St. Paul on January 19. The "Early History of Ancient Landmark Lodge" was the subject of a talk by Owen Morris, and its "more recent history" was described by Milton P. Firestone. A program issued in connection with the celebration includes lists of the charter members of the lodge and of those who have been members for more than forty years.

*A History of the Lincoln Republican Club of St. Paul*, "compiled from Club records and the files of Saint Paul newspapers" by Henry J. Hadlich, was distributed at the annual banquet of the association on February 12. The story of the founding of the club in 1894 is presented, and accounts of the various banquets held since that time on February 12 of each year with summaries of the speeches made are included.

St. Paul's first telephone exchange, which provided service for fourteen subscribers in 1879, is described in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for February 24. The account is based on the recollections of Miss Elizabeth Good, one of the original operators, who still is connected with the local telephone service. It includes a list of the business firms whose establishments were first connected by telephone in St. Paul.

Mr. Frederick W. Fiske recalls some of his experiences as a teacher of Latin and Greek in the St. Paul high schools, in which he has taught almost continuously since 1881, in an interview published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 13.



